





James Spruce District Superintendent

**VOL 64 NUMBER 5** 

P.O.BOX 1054 - 2916 GILBERT LN., ALTON, IL 62002 Web Site: http://ilnazarenedist.org

FEBRUARY 2011

## Team Day North

On February 12 Decatur First will host this popular district event with a huge variety of seminars!

### Team Day South

On March 19 Salem Grace will host this popular district event with a huge variety of seminars!

Pastors, Sunday School teachers and all laity will find essential information for local church ministries. Please register! You may check the district website for more information.

The **District Finance** Committee will immediately after Team Day North at 2:30 p.m.

# meet

If you can possibly attend, please do so. Everyone knows this mid-quadrennial event is eventful, full of activity and opportunities for personal development. But many are praying that God will make M-11 an unforgettable experience in this challenging time for our church and world. Register online today. The dates in Louisville are February 21-23.



#### NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Bill Brandon, District President 18 Sandstone Ct., Troy, IL. 62294 618-667-0828 E-mail <u>csifsr30@sbcglobal.net</u> "That the world may know"



#### **SPRING DEPUTATION TOUR:**

We have Rev. Gerson Cardoso from the Brazil Amazon Area as our speaker. The schedule is being formulated by our Deputation Coordinator, Sandy Stickler, with the exact schedule to be published in next months Booster. The dates are going to be March 12th through the 20th, 2011. Rev. Cardoso is the sub Field Director for the Amazon area. He is also the Pastor of a Church that when he started out as the pastor, the Church was running about ten people. Today it is running about twelve hundred people. Rev. Cardoso speaks and reads English, but he does not consider himself fluent. To assist in translation with the Portuguese language. Pastor Will Haworth from our Sherman Church will be traveling with him. Pastor Haworth and his wife, Cathy, are former Missionaries to Brazil. You do not want to miss hearing what Rev. Cardoso has to tell us about the exciting work going on in Brazil and the Amazon area!

Dave Bailey is taking his annual **Work & Witness trip to the Bradenton Missionary Village** in Florida. The team will be leaving Decatur at 5:00 a.m. on 3/21/11 and returning on 4/1/11. The cost is \$600 per person with the team limited to 20 people. If interested, you need to contact David as soon as possible. Contact information is:

David & Sheila Bailey 11380 Darnell Rd. Mechanicsburg, IL. 62545-7986

Phone: 217-364-9533 David's cell: 217-620-3485 Sheila's cell: 217-620-3297

e-mail: 1davidwbailey@comcast.net

#### Alabaster Offering

**History of Alabaster:** In 1948, Rev. Elizabeth Vennum, Global Council member, was asked to think and pray about a challenging project for NMI. Rev. Vennum knew if God wanted the project to take place, He would provide the plan. On the return trip from Kansas City, God gave her His plan of giving "love" gifts. It was modeled after the sacrifice of the woman who anointed Jesus' head with expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar (Matthew 26:6-13).

At the Global NMI Council meeting in 1949, Mrs. Vennum told of the Alabaster plan God had given her. The Council unanimously adopted the plan, and the first offering was received in 1949.

The Board of General Superintendents approved the plan for Alabaster funds to be used exclusively for buildings and properties in cross-cultural ministries.

Now, more than 60 years later, Alabaster is still strong, having provided more than 8,300 projects since 1949. Faithful Nazarenes around the world have given more than \$92 million dollars for this much-needed ministry.

How Are Alabaster Offerings Received? The Alabaster Offering gets to the mission field via several avenues. The most widely used is the Alabaster Box. Individuals are challenged to regularly contribute the cost of items they desire but do not need. The boxes also serve as reminders to pray for those people who will benefit from Alabaster buildings.

In September and February, the money is collected. Sometimes a "march offering" is received with individuals carrying their boxes to the front of the church and pouring the money into a large offering container. The way an offering is received is as varied as the world areas in which the Church of the Nazarene has a presence; however, it is always accompanied with a spirit of rejoicing.

#### "What is Alabaster Fund?

Collected in Nazarene churches globally twice a year in September and February, the <u>Alabaster Offering</u> provides funds for church property and buildings around the world. These buildings provide a sense of permanence--the attitude that the Church of the Nazarene intends to "put down roots" in a community.

Eighty percent of the money given is used in world mission areas, and 20 percent goes to multicultural congregations in the United States and Canada.

Alabaster funds help provide land for most <u>Work & Witness</u> projects. The entire offering goes toward the construction of churches, schools, medical facilities, and homes for missionaries and national workers.

Since the Alabaster Offering first began in 1949, Nazarenes have funded:

- 3,722 churches and chapels
- 386 Bible schools and school buildings
- 469 mission and district centers
- 36 hospitals and clinics
- 1,445 pieces of land.

From 1949 to 2008, Nazarenes have sacrificially given \$89,294,000 (USD) to the Alabaster Offering. "
(in quotes is from Engage magazine)



#### NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Jay Bush, District President
53 Partridge, Chatham, IL 62629
Phone: Church: 217-529-6771; Home: 217-483-2480
E-mail: jayrbush@aol.com



## celebrate life\*

March 25-26, 2011

Roxana Church of the Nazarene

Registration forms & rule book can be found on the Illinois District website:

www.illinoisnaz.org



NYC 2011 \*Louisville, KY \*July 5-10, 2011 Check out the website for more information: www.nyc2011.org

Go to the NYI page of <a href="www.illinoisnaz.org">www.illinoisnaz.org</a> for forms and directions for registration.

### **Upcoming Events:**

District Celebrate Life March 25-26, 2011 Roxana, IL

Regional Celebrate Life May 19-21, 2011 Olivet Nazarene University

NYC 2011 July 5-10, 2011 Louisville, KY



#### **DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

TIM CRUMP, District Chairman
1177 West Hickory Point Road
Decatur, Illinois 62526
(217) 875-0616 nazpaz1@yahoo.com





#### **DECEMBER STATISTICS**

Sunday School 4,164
Worship 6,033
Responsibility List 11,300
New Nazarenes 6

Those who did not report December 2009 or 2010 numbers are not eligible for the Top Ten Increase Listing.

### TOP TEN WORSHIP DECEMBER INCREASE

**Belleville Emmanuel** +13 Sherman +13 **Beardstown Liberty** +12 +11 Laclede Royalton + 6 **West Union** + 6 Lincoln + 3 Carlinville + 2 E. St. Louis Rush Mem. + 1 + 1 Georgetown **Mount Erie** + 1

#### TOP TEN SS DECEMBER INCREASE

Salem Grace	+40
Pana	+32
Beardstown Liberty	+23
Laclede	+23
Auburn	+17
Bluffview	+15
Vandalia	+15
Carlinville	+ 7
Sherman	+ 7
Belleville Emmanuel	+ 6



### Children's Camp 2011 Lake Williamson, August 1-5 Carlinville, Illinois

This five day camp will offer swimming, a water slide, bonfire, hayride, mini golf, and a number of other outstanding activities and events.

The theme this year is the "Amazing Race."

Cost is only \$175 if registration and payment are postmarked by 6/28/2011. It is \$195 if postmarked 6/29/11 through 7/15/11. After that, cost is \$205 and only if room is available.

We also need to pay for each staff member and counselor who attends. Therefore, we are assessing each church \$20 per camper if you do not provide a counselor. If you do provide a counselor, you will only be assessed \$10 per camper. Counselors must be pre-approved by the SDMI chairperson.

Registration and promotional material will be on the district website shortly. Also, there will be a form if you would like to help at camp this year. Questions or comments e-mail Pastor Tim at <a href="mailto:nazpaz1@yahoo.com">nazpaz1@yahoo.com</a> or call (217) 875-0616.

#### **2011 TEAM DAYS**

Team Day North @ Decatur First, February 12, 2011 Team Day South @ Salem Grace, March 19, 2011

Registration forms have been e-mailed to all pastors They are also available on the DISTRICT WEBSITE: www.illinoisnaz.org

#### **SDMI REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2010**

<b>0</b> 1					DECEMBER 2010				
Church	Enroll	SS	MW	NN	Church	Enroll	SS	. MW	NN
Champaign Team - Jo				_	Mount Vernon Team -				_
Champaign 1st	127	65	136	0	Benton	66	35	45	0
Champaign New Day	120	48	48	0	Centralia	142	64	63	0
Mahomet	67	37	44	0	DuQuoin	44	17	24	0
Mansfield Community	129	23	27	0	Mount Vernon	160	30	42	0
Monticello	89	24	35	0	Salem Grace	540	241	406	0
Ogden	62	50	73	0	Sparta	32	10	13	0
Rantoul	88	36	59	0	·	984	397	593	0
Urbana Lighthouse	108	44	57	4	Murphysboro Team - Bobby Parker, Chairman				
	790	327	479	4	Anna First 201 78 97				
Decatur Team - Greg				•	Carbondale New Beginnings	_	40	46	Ö
Clinton	162	64	91	0	Marion	89	23	34	0
Decatur 1st	750	310	623	0	Murphysboro	109	39	72	1
Decatur Oak Grove	208	20	47	0	Royalton	196	102	103	0
	187	65	75	0	Noyallon	713	282	352	1
Decatur Parkway						713	202	332	1
Decatur Trinity	110	41	48	0	Olivet Teem William	0	Ob a !		
Decatur West Side	152	58	86	0	Olivet Team - Willian		-		•
Lincoln	72	22	38	0	Chrisman	124	61	80	0
Shelbyville	284	110	182	0	Georgetown	86	39	45	0
	1925	690	1190	0	Oakwood	78	18	6	0
Illinois River Team - Le	slie Mod	ore, Ch	airman		Olivet	156	43	63	0
Barry	22	14	12	0	Paris	80	37	60	0
Beardstown	142	78	97	0	Tuscola	100	12	41	0
Beardstown Liberty	58	23	51	0		624	210	295	0
Bethel Community	140	35	66	0					
Griggsville	76	20	31	0	Olney Team - Bob	Tavlor.	Chairma	an	
Mount Sterling	70	13	27	0	Carmi	85	66	57	0
Nebo	129	29	45	0	Fairfield	48	10	12	0
Pittsfield	354	146	235	Ö	Flora	243	108	177	Õ
Quincy Emmanuel	123	53	36	0	Laclede	62	29	35	0
Quilley Emmander	1114	411	600	0	Mount Carmel	54	12	18	0
Mattoon Team - Penn				U	Mount Erie	36	13	34	0
Arcola 1st	-	1, Cital 26		0		135	58	72	
	117		43	0	Olney				0
Arcola Spanish	76 500	21	36	0		663	296	405	0
Casey	589	52	105	0	0 : "		0.		
Marshall	118	47	48	0	Springfield Team - Don				
Mattoon East Side	180	90	93	0	Auburn	332	69	37	0
Mattoon Real Life Comm.	65	16	33	0	Carlinville	75	49	51	0
West Union	65	12	28	0	Pana	352	148	253	0
	1210	264	386	0	Sherman	137	68	89	0
					Springfield 1st	300	137	197	0
Metro East Team - Russe	ell W. Bre	ewer, (	Chairma	an	Springfield Trinity	101	37	47	0
Belleville Emmanuel	228	65	69	1	Vandalia	75	15	19	0
Belleville 1st	240	140	213	0	Taylorville	100	50	86	0
Belleville Korean	48	25	47	0	Virden	65	26	42	0
Bluffview	186	38	53	0		1537	599	821	Ō
Collinsville Good Samaritan	130	80	134	Ö			000	02.	Ŭ
E. St. Louis Rush Mem.	6	5	6	Ö					
Edgemont Grace	65	13	39	0		Enroll	SS	MW	NN
	100	60	67		Grand Totals	11300	4164	6033	6
Fairview Hgts Parkview				0	Grand Totals	11300	4104	0033	0
Mississiumi Valley Teem	1003	426	628	1					
Mississippi Valley Team		_							
Glenview	210	62	75	0					
Godfrey	198	30	45	0					
Jerseyville	102	26	31	0					
Roxana	227	144	133	0					
	737	262	284	0					

#### **BUDGET REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2010**

Church Name	District	Olivet Control of the	NMI	SDMÍ	NYI	WEF	P&B
	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
Anna First Arcola First	\$5,900.14 \$1,498.53	\$3,079.14 \$923.67	\$382.12 \$97.06	\$257.73 \$65.46	\$332.64 \$84.49	\$9,291.00 \$2,885.00	\$2,463.31 \$507.31
Arcola Spanish	\$686.24	\$362.50	\$44.44	\$29.99	\$38.69	\$576.00	\$249.00
Auburn	\$747.18	\$179.83	\$48.39	\$32.64	\$42.12	\$1,446.56	\$526.01
Barry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Beardstown	\$3,513.59	\$1,916.02	\$227.54	\$153.47	\$198.09	\$5,210.82	\$1,536.19
Beardstown Liberty Hispanic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belleville Emmanuel Belleville First	\$1,206.28 \$8,910.30	\$658.61 \$3,861.68	\$78.13 \$577.08	\$52.68 \$389.22	\$68.01 \$502.35	\$1,434.64 \$5,000.00	\$526.89 \$7,070.00
Belleville Korean	\$2,468.17	\$0.00	\$159.85	\$107.85	\$139.13	\$1,072.00	\$612.00
Benton	\$2,796.89	\$1,459.62	\$181.14	\$122.16	\$157.68	\$3,043.75	\$1,167.71
Bethel	\$2,058.33	\$1,028.22	\$133.31	\$89.91	\$116.04	\$3,427.45	\$429.31
Bluff View Christian Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carbondale New Beginnings	\$200.03	\$0.00	\$12.95	\$8.74	\$11.28	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carlinville First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,119.00	\$200.00
Carmi	\$2,137.66 \$9,574.99	\$667.00 \$5,158.23	\$138.45 \$620.12	\$93.38 \$418.24	\$120.51 \$539.83	\$300.00 \$16,557.00	\$533.32 \$4,205.82
Centralia	\$2,287.02	\$1,194.00	\$148.13	\$99.91	\$128.94	\$2,625.00	\$965.25
Champaign First	\$4,358.78	\$2,269.97	\$282.28	\$190.38	\$245.73	\$5,003.97	\$1,817.28
Champaign New Day	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chrisman	\$2,747.20	\$1,300.00	\$177.92	\$120.00	\$154.88	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Clinton First	\$5,631.76	\$2,800.00	\$364.72	\$246.00	\$317.52	\$6,090.00	\$2,240.00
Collinsville Good Samaritan Crossroads Community	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00
Decatur First	\$0.00 \$20,275.53	\$0.00 \$11,913.92	\$0.00 \$1,313.12	\$0.00 \$885.66	\$0.00 \$1,143.09	\$28,731.00	\$8,465.02
Decatur Prist  Decatur Oak Grove	\$1,290.32	\$660.00	\$83.56	\$56.37	\$72.75	\$2,169.25	\$658.00
Decatur Parkway	\$5,237.51	\$2,800.60	\$339.21	\$228.79	\$295.30	\$6,011.39	\$2,185.97
Decatur Trinity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,444.06	\$899.66
Decatur West Side	\$4,587.13	\$4,093.24	\$297.07	\$200.35	\$258.58	\$4,959.78	\$1,803.56
Du Quoin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	\$212.03 \$0.00	\$139.00 \$0.00	\$13.74 \$0.00	\$9.27 \$0.00	\$11.96 \$0.00	\$243.00 \$0.00	\$89.00 \$0.00
Edgemont Grace Fairfield Fountain of Life	\$589.75	\$0.00	\$38.19	\$25.76	\$33.25	\$1,675.00	\$60.40
Fairview Heights Parkview	\$2,067.23	\$1,841.20	\$133.86	\$90.31	\$116.58	\$5,461.00	\$1,486.73
Flora	\$5,363.10	\$2,999.76	\$347.34	\$234.27	\$302.37	\$8,757.78	\$2,245.41
Georgetown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,597.85	\$600.00
Glenview	\$4,168.39	\$3,018.89	\$269.96	\$182.08	\$235.00	\$6,743.00	\$1,504.08
Godfrey	\$2,044.25	\$914.94	\$132.42	\$89.31	\$115.25	\$2,100.47	\$773.11
Granite City CTM Griggsville	\$0.00 \$901.42	\$0.00 \$388.00	\$0.00 \$58.38	\$0.00 \$39.38	\$0.00 \$50.82	\$0.00 \$869.00	\$0.00 \$466.00
Highland	\$164.32	\$0.00	\$10.64	\$7.17	\$9.26	\$323.00	\$40.00
Jerseyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Laclede	\$649.92	\$354.23	\$42.09	\$28.38	\$36.64	\$979.24	\$240.29
Lincoln	\$1,931.65	\$1,000.00	\$125.10	\$84.36	\$108.89	\$2,200.00	\$790.00
Manafield Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 \$92.15	\$1,191.00	\$0.00
Mansfield Community  Marion First	\$1,634.58 \$0.00	\$882.00 \$0.00	\$105.86 \$0.00	\$71.41 \$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,985.00 \$645.00	\$706.00 \$0.00
Marshall	\$858.50	\$0.00	\$55.60	\$37.50	\$48.40	\$0.00	\$500.00
Mattoon East Side	\$1,594.02	\$1,855.55	\$103.24	\$69.63	\$89.87	\$6,309.14	\$1,484.44
Mattoon Real Life Community	\$2,681.87	\$1,564.32	\$173.68	\$117.15	\$151.20	\$3,446.71	\$1,260.70
Monticello	\$1,147.81	\$870.00	\$74.34	\$50.14	\$64.71	\$2,352.00	\$449.00
Mount Carmel	\$954.65	\$50.00	\$61.83	\$41.70	\$53.82	\$155.00	\$500.00
Mount Erie  Mount Sterling	\$1,286.43 \$441.05	\$692.29 \$74.26	\$83.32 \$28.59	\$56.20 \$19.26	\$72.52 \$24.86	\$1,428.32 \$280.00	\$643.77 \$92.82
Mount Sterling  Mount Vernon	\$1,098.55	\$584.30	\$28.59 \$71.14	\$47.99	\$61.93	\$1,275.00	\$470.85
Murphysboro	\$3,698.51	\$0.00	\$239.54	\$161.55	\$208.53	\$0.00	\$1,645.13
Nebo	\$2,245.80	\$1,188.88	\$145.44	\$98.09	\$126.60	\$2,417.82	\$884.92
Oakwood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oasis Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ogden Olivet	\$1,281.29 \$2,231.49	\$1,219.67 \$1,165.00	\$82.98 \$144.51	\$55.96 \$97.48	\$72.24 \$125.80	\$2,907.77 \$250.25	\$1,080.94 \$1,254.50
Olivet	\$2,231.49 \$2,608.76	\$1,165.00 \$1,276.27	\$144.51 \$168.94	\$97.48 \$113.97	\$125.80 \$147.08	\$259.25 \$3,497.71	\$1,254.50 \$935.35
Omaha	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pana First	\$2,325.45	\$1,215.49	\$150.61	\$101.59	\$131.10	\$4,558.11	\$1,898.95
Paris First	\$1,591.79	\$958.40	\$103.10	\$69.52	\$89.75	\$2,879.26	\$669.50
Pittsfield	\$7,267.12	\$9,792.49	\$470.64	\$317.44	\$409.69	\$12,188.16	\$3,033.99
Quincy Emmanuel	\$1,566.52	\$817.52	\$101.45	\$68.43	\$88.32	\$1,783.56	\$654.02
Rantoul Roxana	\$1,051.00 \$11,039.35	\$1,037.20 \$5,813.69	\$68.07 \$714.95	\$45.91 \$482.21	\$59.25 \$622.38	\$5,134.09 \$14,424.47	\$1,299.76 \$4,961.73
Royalton First	\$2,643.94	\$1,379.80	\$171.23	\$115.49	\$149.06	\$0.00	\$1,103.84
Salem Grace	\$13,300.27	\$7,146.36	\$861.39	\$580.98	\$749.84	\$16,225.86	\$5,909.13
Shelbyville	\$7,614.94	\$3,797.77	\$493.18	\$332.64	\$429.30	\$8,232.42	\$3,016.48
Sherman	\$4,049.58	\$2,133.62	\$262.27	\$176.89	\$228.31	\$3,570.05	\$1,223.74
Sparta	\$473.42	\$0.00	\$30.66	\$20.68	\$26.69	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield First	\$2,575.50 \$429.25	\$0.00 \$500.00	\$166.80 \$27.80	\$112.50 \$18.75	\$145.20 \$24.20	\$3,102.00 \$1,000.00	\$2,000.00 \$700.00
Springfield Trinity Taylorville First	\$429.25	\$500.00	\$27.80	\$18.75	\$24.20	\$1,000.00	\$700.00
Tuscola	\$1,492.78	\$1,000.00	\$96.68	\$65.21	\$84.16	\$3,320.00	\$1,000.00
Urbana Lighthouse	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vandalia	\$76.02	\$8.18	\$4.92	\$3.32	\$4.28	\$87.28	\$31.73
Virden	\$1,636.97	\$612.06	\$106.01	\$71.51	\$92.28	\$2,682.07	\$655.92
West Union	\$717.71 \$190.920.56	\$0.00 \$104 617 30	\$46.47 \$12.203.55	\$31.35	\$40.47 \$10.701.66	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$189,820.56	\$104,617.39	\$12,293.55	\$8,291.67	\$10,701.66	\$247,684.06	\$88,523.84





www.m11conference.org

http://www.nazarenemedialibrary.org/channels/Home/M11-Promo-Videos.aspx

#### RENEWAL OF DISTRICT LICENSE

The Ministerial Credentials will be interviewing District Licensed Ministers for renewal of their licenses on March 5, 2011. All district licensed ministers should have received instructions concerning the renewal of their license via email. If you didn't, contact Rev. Haynes at 618-462-4361.

#### **CREDENTIAL MATTERS**

If you are seeking a district license for the first time, contact Rev. Haynes at 618-462-4361. Interviews will be scheduled for May 13, 2011 after March 6.

Those seeking ordination will be interviewed on May 13, 2011. Please place this on your calendar now. You will be interviewed in the morning. Interviews will be scheduled after March 6.

If you have any questions contact Rev. Haynes.

1.4. 4 mrs. Jem Spruce

The Goestreit Family

Gratefully acknowledging and thanking you for your kind expression of sympathy

The flowers were were beautiful, Shook you the Formon family Ben Ralph Formum



#### **Missional Strategy**

MARK COPLEY, District Missionary P.O. Box 373, Casey, IL 62420 Cell: 217-932-3676

E-mail: pastor@kznaz.org



#### **Everybody Plays on Team Day**

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..." (Colossians 3:16)

I love baseball. When I was growing up, I was a big Cincinnati Reds fan. (This was back in the days of the "Big Red Machine".) But watching the game on TV was never enough. I wanted to play! Unfortunately, I wasn't very good. In fact, all that I had in common with my hero -- Johnny Bench -- was that his last name was where I spent most of my time during my little league career.

Aren't you glad that the Church is not like that? The mission of the Illinois District is not a spectator sport. We are all called to be part of the team, and to "Make Christlike Disciples in the Nations." Our District Team Days are coming and these days are for everyone as well. To make these days as accessible as possible, we have one day (February 12<sup>th</sup>) in Decatur at Decatur First Church, and one day (March 19<sup>th</sup>) at Salem Grace Church. These two Saturdays are set apart for training and fellowship for our "team" – the pastors and people of the Illinois District.

Most of the teaching is done "in house" as we take the time to learn from one another. And, though we have many interesting workshops planned, some of the best learning (and teaching) may come from our conversations around the lunch tables, or in the hallways. I love these days because they are an expression of our unity together, our common mission, and our shared vision.

This year, Pastor Tim Crump from Decatur First, and Laura Mondy from Centralia have done a wonderful job planning these days and scheduling speakers and workshops. Our plenary speaker at each event will be Tim Young, Jr. our church planter at Granite City. Tim has been called to pursue planting the church using a "house church" or "organic" approach which emphasizes building discipling relationships and the Missional calling of every disciple. Tim will also be leading three workshops during the day: "Every Disciple is a Church Planter"; "Life Transformation Groups"; and "Organic Principles for Making Disciples."

Olivet will be sending two of their finest educators to lead workshops as well: Dr. Carl Leth, and Dr. Frank Moore. Dr. Leth will be teaching workshops on "The Emerging Church" and Dr. Moore will be teaching on Discipleship: "Making Christlike Disciples Just Got Easier" and "The 2011 Version of Christlikeness."

Other workshops aimed at encouraging pastors and lay leaders include: "How Do We Change When No One Wants To?" (Greg Breeden); "How To Start A Lay-Driven Care and Visitation Ministry" (Julie Yates and Phil Alvord); and "Doing More Than Surviving Ministry" (Mike Curtis). Of special note are two workshops on prayer – "Prayer That Attracts God" and "Moving Prayer to the Center of Your Church" – taught by Will Haworth. Will recently took part in a prayer conference at Crossroads Church in Texas and has a passion to lead our District toward greater victories through prayer.

There are special workshops that emphasize ministry to Children and Youth, Worship Ministries and Sunday School as well. Tim Crump – our SDMI Chairman -- will be hosting an "SDMI Roundtable Discussion" where questions and answers can be shared by those who serve in Sunday School leaders.

Please see the enclosed brochure for more information and workshops. As you can see, there is enough training here to inspire and equip our churches for greater impact in the coming months, or even years to come. All the information for registration has been sent out and should have been received. The cost is nominal, only \$15 for each participant and this includes lunch! So, register early, and bring the whole "Team" from your church!

Go Team! (Matthew 28:19-20),

District Missional Strategy Director