

BOOKSTORE



James Spruce
District Superintendent

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APRIL 2011

The Cowboy Church – Minus One, Plus One

Right on the sanctuary wall during worship at Casey a few weeks ago a video showed sure-enough cowboys – big as all out doors – you know, the real ones, not the artificial movie types seen on television.

What they had to say was from the heart, from somewhere deep within. Their speech was natural, not nuanced or affected. They wanted us to know that their passion is to offer church in a way that is accessible and believable for people who normally think of church as unapproachable.

Their church, they said, is sometimes in a barn and without air-conditioning, pews, organ, carpet, stained glass, or religious artifacts. Unless chairs were brought in, you would have to make do with hay bales. If you wanted to be baptized, you'd have to be okay with a water tank for horses.

This is "Cowboy Church" – a place without frills and a people without airs. The assumption is that there are people all around us who don't connect with traditional church, yet who at the same time are curious if not hungry for God. The assumption is correct: people are attending Cowboy Church by the droves all across rural America.

But why is this? Why don't they go to your church?

In order to get enough Omega-3, Karen has me take two tablespoons of fish oil every evening after supper. Do I like it? Absolutely not. It tastes "fishy" in a way I cannot explain. It tastes foreign, not natural like a fish is supposed to taste. "Who drinks fish?" I ask. Usually she does not answer.

For a lot of non-churched people, church has a "churchy" feel: music that makes no sense, announcements that sound in-house and people that swamp you or avoid you. (It is true, of course, that if people have an eye for something they don't like they will likely find it in a church service).

Cowboy Church appeals to cowboys, farmers, ranchers and folks who live and work in rural settings. A church that has a familiar feel to them makes them feel at home. If church is in a barn, you can literally leave the barn where you did chores, regardless of what you may have stepped in, and just walk into another barn, the church. Nobody would take the least offense because most of them have been there, too. But to take the same kind of freedom in a church as nice as yours might feel unnatural, even presumptuous. So it is easier just to stay away.

Mom and I spoke often of the different expressions of worship – traditional, contemporary and blended. At 95 years of age, she was King James through and through and loved her church immensely. Having begun her journey with the denomination when the Church of the Nazarene was only seven years old, mom eagerly followed innovations in worship and church plants. "I'm so glad you're going to M-11," she said. "It's less than a week. You'll see many of your friends and get to attend interesting seminars. I know you'll have a wonderful time." It was part of the last phone call I had with mom. In less than a day and half she was with the Lord. Of course, I never got to M-11.

"Tell me more about the Cowboy Church," she said some months ago. "Wouldn't your dad have loved something like that?" Indeed he would have, being born and raised on a dairy farm just south of San Antonio. Dad was one of those guys that left the farm but the farm never completely left him. Countless people live the farming/ranching/rural life. Some may attend your church. But many don't.

So to offer church in a way that connects with this vast non-churched group is something we must do. In the same way, giving support for the house (or organic) church movement is needed. Granite City and Vandalia meet in homes. Everything turns on relationships built through authenticity and honesty; there is no traditional church infrastructure – VBS, Sunday School, choir, sport teams. Other churches sponsor new plants; some have satellite extensions of their church across the miles. I once visited a satellite church of a hundred people in Corpus Christi whose sponsoring church was in Oklahoma City.

Mom loved the idea of Cowboy Church though she never attended one. In the long run it may not be so bad that the Cowboy Church is minus one fan in this world and plus one in the New Jerusalem. -- Jim Spruce



NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

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"That the world may know"



SPRING DEPUTATION TOUR:

As of this writing we are having our Spring Deputation Rallies with Rev. Gerson Cardoso. We have three Rallies left. The Rallies have been well attended and have impacted people with what Rev. Cardoso has been telling us about the Kingdom growth in Brazil. We were reminded the Church of the Nazarene started the work in Brazil over fifty years ago with the arrival of Missionaries Earl and Gladys Mosteller and how Earl used to throw him up in the air when he was a small boy. That got me to thinking how intertwined we all are. I received some of my passion for Missions listening to Earl Mosteller speak and spending one on one time with him talking about how Nazarene Missions is being used by the Lord to impact our world. Are you impacting others for the Kingdom?

Scripture tells us in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." There is a great need for people to hear and respond to God's call to missions and ministry. Remember, the Mission Field is not just in other countries, it is all around us.

NMI assisted Work & Witness is raising US \$1,489,473 to deploy 786 teams, an average of 15 teams per week. 10,752 participants donated more than 292 years of labor.

The Church of the Nazarene ministers in 156 world areas. The newest world areas entered are: Africa Region—Mali.

Japan Earthquake – UPDATE

The country of Japan was hit with an 8.9 magnitude earthquake on March 11. Rescue efforts continue amid the devastation. The Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) Committee in Japan says, "The most important thing Nazarenes around the world can do right now is pray for the Church in Japan as they minister to those who are hurting." The following are ways to pray:

- Pray that the Japanese people will continue in the mindset of sharing what they have rather than hoarding basic supplies.
- Pray for Pastor Shoei Abe and the members of the Sendai Church of the Nazarene. The church has electricity and Internet and is being used as a location for relief work.
- Pray for the NCM Committee in Japan, that God will direct and provide in their desire to create base camps where they can help people.
- Pray for people who have family members that are still missing. May God's peace and comfort be felt as they search and wait.
- Pray that in God's timing, Nazarene church facilities and school buildings that have been damaged will be repaired so ministry can continue safely.
- Pray for those who have been affected by the earthquake, tsunami, and radiation leaks. The triple disasters have changed lives forever in a dramatic way. Although Christians represent only 2% of the population in Japan, pray that they will be the hands and feet of Jesus as they reach out to those who are suffering.

In addition to the most important and mighty work of prayer, persons who wish to give toward relief efforts can visit www.ncm.org. For the more updates, visit <http://tinyurl.com/67s2n73>

April is Mission Education Month

Why Mission Education

Knowledge is key to involvement. With an understanding of the needs of the world and what the church is doing to meet those needs, we are more likely to commit to the support of missions through prayer, giving, communication, and going.

How Does Mission Education Take Place?

Learning takes place in a variety of venues. Experiences, listening to and reading stories, and getting to know missionaries on a personal level enhance mission awareness. Your local NMI president or mission education secretary can tell you of the many exciting opportunities for mission education.

- Use of age-appropriate curricula and NMI reading books/tapes provide learning opportunities and activities designed to engage people of all ages in missions: Children's Mission Education, Youth Mission Education, and Adult Mission Education.
- For multicultural congregations, the International Mission Education Journal is a curriculum piece that includes mission education lessons for adults and children. It is produced in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Churches should contact their district NMI president for more information on this resource.
- The hands-on experiences of Volunteer Opportunities programs often provide opportunities for people to see missions firsthand.
- Audiovisuals offer people the ability to "see and hear" missions. Each church receives an annual audiovisual catalog.
- Deputation services, Faith Promise conventions, district-sponsored events with a missionary speaker, and the presence of missionaries-in-residence at youth and children's camps allow for interaction between missionaries and the people who support them through their giving and prayers.

Mission education is important in the life of the church and especially important for our youth. The Church of the Nazarene is a missional church, but many of the new generations do not know our history. It is important for us to let the young people know not only what the church is doing today, but also what has been done in the past.

Mission education is more than just information, it is participation. When young people engage in something larger than their world, they take up the challenge to help others know Jesus and show His love for the lost and those in need. The more we give youth an opportunity to experience missions, the more likely it is that mission will become a continuing part of their lifestyle. This is a great responsibility!

If we want younger generations to participate in the life of the church, we must undergo a cross-cultural transformation in our own lives. Our minds, hearts, and actions must adapt to minister to young people within the reality in which they live.

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NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

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NYC 2011 *Louisville, KY *July 5-10, 2011

Check out the website for more information:

www.nyc2011.org

Go to the NYI page of www.illinoisnaz.org
for forms and directions for registration.

Upcoming Events:

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

NYC 2011
July 5-10, 2011
Louisville, KY

Youth camp
June 20-24, 2011

Continued from page 2, NMI

One of the principles of education is to transmit information from one person to another. We must teach our congregations, researching what is happening in missions around our churches, districts, regions, and around the world.

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Places where we can find information:

- Church of the Nazarene Web site – www.nazarene.org
- Global Mission Web site – www.nazareneworldmission.org
- Nazarene Missions International Web site
- Missionary newsletters and blogs
- Maintaining direct contact with missionaries – LINKS, deputation, etc

PARTICIPATION

There is no better way for young people to learn about missions than getting involved. We have must help our congregations to get involved in the life of those in need, and helping fulfill their needs. The Church of the Nazarene provides us with many opportunities for involvement. Not everyone can go, but everyone can give, pray, and support missions.

Some examples of opportunities for involvement are:

- Participate in missions service projects (such as Work & Witness, Youth in Mission, Youthserve, CAUSE, NCM centers, Good Samaritan churches, community projects, etc.) and/or hands-on missions activities (Crisis Care Kits, School Pal-Paks, relief shipments, LINKS packages, unofficial LINKS, etc.)
- Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (www.ncm.org) projects like: 30 hour famine and Child Sponsorship
- NYI Missions Project Offering takes place on a regular basis. Sponsor a "Jesus for a New Generation" youth mission offering project <www.NYIToday.org>. This is the official mission offering project for Nazarene Youth International designed to enable local youth to make a global impact by supporting other youth around the world.
- Local and district outreach programs

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DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

TIM CRUMP, District Chairman

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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 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 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. All camp registrations are to be given to the local church!**

Registration, promotional material and a form requesting to help at the camp are on the district website. Let's make Children's Camp a top priority this year!

Questions or comments e-mail Pastor Tim at nazpaz1@yahoo.com or call (217) 875-0616.

**Put the SDMI CONVENTION
on your CALENDAR
July, 13th @ Decatur First
Be a part of something new
and exciting on the Illinois
District as the NYI, NMI & SDMI
Work Together!**

Nazarene Safe Training Event Saturday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. via Webinar

REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE COMING

You are invited to attend a very important meeting which is designed to help you and your church create a safer environment as you strive to protect all of God's family from harm, especially those who are the most vulnerable. We will be unveiling the new denominational "Nazarene Safe" endeavor. There is no charge for this session, but I am requesting that you RSVP the number from your church that will be attending so I can have training material available for them. Please RSVP by e-mailing the attendance count to: nazpaz1@yahoo.com

In this meeting . . .

- You will learn about the ***new zero tolerance policy*** regarding sexual misconduct that our denomination has established and the proper procedure you will need to follow in case you and your church are confronted with sexual misconduct.
- You will learn about how your church can adopt and implement the policies and procedures that will protect both the individual as well as the church.
- You will learn how you can easily provide awareness training and staff and volunteer screening.
- You will also learn issues related to accountability and the need for monitoring and evaluation.
- You will learn about reporting incidents and how to respond to allegations and those involved.
- You will be introduced to a method by which your church can provide on-going training to help prevent sexual misconduct from happening.

Who should attend this meeting?

Pastors, staff members, church board members, children and youth workers, and lay people.

SDMI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Church	Enroll	SS	MW	NN	Church	Enroll	SS	MW	NN
Champaign Team - Carlos Lonberger, Chairman					Mount Vernon Team - Tim Mondy, Chairman				
Champaign 1st	124	77	124	0	Benton	66	31	41	0
Champaign New Day	120	44	44	0	Centralia	142	61	64	0
Mahomet	68	21	41	0	DuQuoin	41	15	20	0
Mansfield Community	129	24	30	0	Mount Vernon	160	31	35	0
Monticello	89	24	35	0	Salem Grace	558	214	390	0
Ogden	63	55	72	0	Sparta	32	11	14	0
Rantoul	88	36	59	0		999	363	564	0
Urbana Lighthouse	108	43	53	0	Murphysboro Team - Robert Parker, Chairman				
	789	324	458	0	Anna First	201	95	123	3
Decatur Team - Greg Wooten, Chairman					Carbondale New Beginnings	120	46	40	0
Clinton	162	63	77	0	Marion	89	28	41	0
Decatur 1st	750	363	626	0	Murphysboro	108	45	67	0
Decatur Oak Grove	211	27	64	0	Royalton	199	103	99	0
Decatur Parkway	187	61	71	0		717	317	370	3
Decatur Trinity	110	41	46	0	Olivet Team - William Connell, Chairman				
Decatur West Side	152	57	85	0	Chrisman	124	61	75	0
Lincoln	72	28	40	0	Georgetown	89	43	52	0
Shelbyville	298	104	183	0	Oakwood	78	18	8	0
	1942	744	1192	0	Olivet	156	55	55	0
Illinois River Team - Leslie Moore, Chairman					Paris	80	43	61	0
Barry	20	11	12	0	Tuscola	100	12	41	0
Beardstown	142	77	90	1		627	232	292	0
Beardstown Liberty	58	30	59	0	Olney Team - Bob Taylor, Chairman				
Bethel Community	130	28	55	0	Carmi	85	57	52	0
Griggsville	76	22	27	0	Fairfield	48	10	12	0
Mount Sterling	70	15	28	1	Flora	243	111	176	4
Nebo	129	28	42	0	Laclede	62	15	28	5
Pittsfield	345	146	235	0	Mount Carmel	54	12	18	0
Quincy Emmanuel	123	53	36	0	Mount Erie	36	18	31	0
	1093	410	584	2	Olney	138	65	76	0
Mattoon Team - Penny Brown, Chairman						666	288	393	9
Arcola 1st	117	35	54	0	Springfield Team - Donald Harrison, Chairman				
Arcola Spanish	76	21	36	0	Auburn	332	82	50	1
Casey	589	65	135	0	Carlinville	82	48	53	0
Marshall	118	47	48	0	Pana	352	131	254	0
Mattoon East Side	180	90	93	0	Sherman	134	77	100	0
Mattoon Real Life Comm.	65	14	28	0	Springfield 1st	300	145	225	0
West Union	65	19	23	0	Springfield Trinity	110	34	58	0
	1210	291	417	0	Vandalia	75	15	19	
Metro East Team - Russell W. Brewer, Chairman					Taylorville	100	50	86	0
Belleville Emmanuel	129	51	45	0	Viriden	65	26	42	0
Belleville 1st	240	130	198	0		1550	608	887	1
Belleville Korean	48	25	47	0					
Collinsville Good Samaritan	130	80	134	0					
Dupo Bluffview Christian Center	186	28	47	0					
E. St. Louis Rush Memorial	6	4	4	0					
Edgemont Grace	65	14	22	0					
Fairview Heights Parkview	100	49	61	0					
	904	381	558	0					
Mississippi Valley Team - Richard Unger Chairman									
Glenview	210	56	89	0					
Godfrey	196	37	44	0					
Jerseyville	102	35	38	0					
Roxana	227	154	144	0					
	735	282	315	0					
Grand Totals						Enroll	SS	MW	NN
						11232	4240	6030	15

BUDGET REPORT FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Church Name	District	Olivet	NMI	SDMI	NYI	WEF	P & B
Anna First	\$7,584.21	\$3,928.51	\$491.18	\$331.29	\$427.58	\$11,130.00	\$3,142.81
Arcola First	\$1,879.08	\$1,057.30	\$121.71	\$82.08	\$105.94	\$2,885.00	\$785.46
Arcola Spanish	\$885.72	\$512.50	\$57.36	\$38.70	\$49.93	\$881.00	\$320.00
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	\$4,482.30	\$2,464.78	\$290.27	\$195.79	\$252.70	\$6,501.82	\$1,928.21
Beardstown Liberty Hispanic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belleville Emmanuel	\$1,567.90	\$826.68	\$101.55	\$68.48	\$88.40	\$1,597.49	\$584.16
Belleville First	\$11,058.88	\$5,658.05	\$716.23	\$483.07	\$623.48	\$9,000.00	\$7,070.00
Belleville Korean	\$2,978.11	\$0.00	\$192.87	\$130.14	\$167.88	\$1,222.00	\$762.00
Benton	\$3,314.84	\$1,729.92	\$214.68	\$144.78	\$186.88	\$3,607.41	\$1,383.95
Bethel	\$2,492.45	\$1,304.22	\$161.43	\$108.87	\$140.51	\$4,034.65	\$650.11
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	\$1,219.00	\$200.00
Carmi	\$2,137.66	\$667.00	\$138.45	\$93.38	\$120.51	\$1,000.00	\$533.32
Casey	\$11,566.89	\$5,922.28	\$749.13	\$505.24	\$652.12	\$17,952.00	\$4,953.36
Centralia	\$2,880.25	\$2,795.54	\$186.55	\$125.82	\$162.38	\$3,307.00	\$1,251.25
Champaign First	\$5,771.19	\$3,009.83	\$373.75	\$252.08	\$325.36	\$6,631.66	\$2,409.17
(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	\$6,335.73	\$3,200.00	\$410.31	\$276.75	\$357.21	\$6,960.00	\$2,560.00
Collinsville Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,310.52	\$1,025.23
Decatur First	\$26,223.80	\$13,708.78	\$1,698.35	\$1,145.49	\$1,478.44	\$31,617.50	\$10,967.02
Decatur Oak Grove	\$1,752.19	\$725.00	\$113.47	\$76.55	\$98.79	\$2,169.25	\$772.00
Decatur Parkway	\$6,440.85	\$3,360.45	\$417.15	\$281.34	\$363.14	\$7,857.41	\$2,688.44
Decatur Trinity	\$2,825.57	\$1,645.65	\$183.00	\$123.42	\$159.30	\$2,478.38	\$1,316.51
Decatur West Side	\$5,734.87	\$4,093.24	\$371.41	\$250.49	\$323.28	\$5,760.50	\$2,094.73
Du Quoin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	\$292.72	\$153.00	\$18.97	\$12.80	\$16.51	\$336.00	\$122.00
Edgemont Grace	\$906.65	\$0.00	\$58.72	\$39.60	\$51.11	\$1,080.00	\$354.53
Fairfield Fountain of Life	\$589.75	\$0.00	\$38.19	\$25.76	\$33.25	\$1,675.00	\$60.40
Fairview Heights Parkview	\$3,394.82	\$2,548.98	\$219.83	\$148.32	\$191.43	\$5,998.00	\$1,764.33
Flora	\$6,620.71	\$3,656.07	\$428.79	\$289.20	\$373.27	\$10,777.78	\$2,770.46
Georgetown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,597.85	\$600.00
Glenview	\$4,748.76	\$3,018.89	\$307.55	\$207.43	\$267.72	\$7,385.00	\$1,812.61
Godfrey	\$2,091.44	\$964.94	\$135.50	\$91.40	\$117.89	\$2,155.47	\$828.11
Granite City CTM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Griggsville	\$1,054.22	\$516.00	\$68.28	\$46.06	\$59.44	\$1,045.00	\$543.00
(Harrisburg) Oasis Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland	\$194.12	\$0.00	\$12.57	\$8.47	\$10.94	\$323.00	\$40.00
Jerseyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.00	\$0.00
Laclede	\$744.97	\$396.61	\$48.25	\$32.53	\$42.00	\$1,115.97	\$274.19
Lincoln	\$2,522.66	\$1,210.00	\$163.37	\$110.18	\$142.20	\$2,910.00	\$1,060.00
Mahomet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,415.73	\$200.00
Mansfield Community	\$2,372.89	\$1,239.00	\$153.68	\$103.66	\$133.77	\$2,686.00	\$991.00
Marion First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$730.00	\$0.00
Marshall	\$858.50	\$0.00	\$55.60	\$37.50	\$48.40	\$0.00	\$500.00
Mattoon East Side	\$3,554.15	\$2,116.94	\$230.19	\$155.25	\$200.38	\$7,268.58	\$1,870.77
Mattoon Real Life Community	\$3,657.09	\$1,740.36	\$236.85	\$159.75	\$206.18	\$4,204.31	\$1,536.25
Monticello	\$1,482.62	\$951.00	\$96.03	\$64.77	\$83.58	\$2,757.00	\$596.00
Mount Carmel	\$1,451.47	\$75.00	\$94.01	\$63.41	\$81.83	\$552.50	\$612.33
Mount Erie	\$1,620.19	\$799.50	\$104.94	\$70.78	\$91.33	\$1,741.66	\$643.77
Mount Sterling	\$441.05	\$74.26	\$28.59	\$19.26	\$24.86	\$280.00	\$92.82
Mount Vernon	\$1,678.42	\$899.55	\$108.70	\$73.32	\$94.62	\$2,013.00	\$738.85
Murphysboro	\$4,421.33	\$2,171.39	\$286.36	\$193.14	\$249.28	\$3,470.00	\$2,055.97
Nebo	\$2,621.58	\$1,389.88	\$169.78	\$114.50	\$147.79	\$3,034.14	\$1,111.90
Oakwood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ogden	\$2,988.92	\$1,219.67	\$193.57	\$130.55	\$168.51	\$3,697.10	\$1,360.19
Olivet	\$2,844.45	\$1,438.00	\$184.21	\$124.26	\$160.36	\$2,589.25	\$1,527.50
Olney	\$3,190.50	\$1,665.06	\$206.63	\$139.39	\$179.89	\$4,083.71	\$1,192.65
Omaha	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pana First	\$4,124.26	\$1,538.05	\$267.11	\$180.16	\$232.52	\$4,558.11	\$1,898.95
Paris First	\$2,094.34	\$1,092.33	\$135.65	\$91.47	\$118.08	\$3,494.79	\$878.80
Pittsfield	\$13,723.80	\$12,977.89	\$888.80	\$599.48	\$773.70	\$24,923.80	\$5,729.55
Quincy Emmanuel	\$2,039.32	\$817.52	\$132.07	\$89.08	\$114.98	\$2,889.06	\$859.47
Rantoul	\$1,051.00	\$1,037.20	\$68.07	\$45.91	\$59.25	\$6,269.09	\$1,299.76
Roxana	\$13,708.13	\$7,112.41	\$887.79	\$598.78	\$772.83	\$15,622.03	\$5,689.93
Royalton First	\$3,458.66	\$1,804.80	\$223.99	\$151.08	\$194.99	\$2,877.31	\$1,443.84
Salem Grace	\$18,151.71	\$9,253.91	\$1,175.60	\$792.89	\$1,023.34	\$20,840.41	\$7,586.71
Shelbyville	\$9,733.79	\$5,443.52	\$630.40	\$425.20	\$548.76	\$10,426.67	\$3,441.72
Sherman	\$4,323.93	\$2,427.21	\$280.04	\$188.87	\$243.78	\$4,312.80	\$1,458.61
Sparta	\$473.42	\$0.00	\$30.66	\$20.68	\$26.69	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield First	\$6,868.00	\$0.00	\$444.80	\$300.00	\$387.20	\$11,994.00	\$4,000.00
Springfield Trinity	\$429.25	\$500.00	\$27.80	\$18.75	\$24.20	\$1,000.00	\$700.00
Taylorville First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuscola	\$1,870.34	\$1,000.00	\$121.14	\$81.70	\$105.45	\$3,385.00	\$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
Virgen	\$1,884.01	\$701.44	\$122.01	\$82.30	\$106.20	\$2,881.72	\$727.43
West Union	\$717.71	\$0.00	\$46.47	\$31.35	\$40.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$252,678.57	\$132,048.12	\$16,364.59	\$11,037.45	\$14,245.37	\$324,528.27	\$111,029.87

CHURCH NEWS

COMING EVENTS

Thank You

Dear Illinois District Family,

*Your kindness and sympathy
are more deeply appreciated
than any words of thanks
can ever express.*

*Thank you so much for the lovely
flowers, the cards, and even some
who could attend the funeral. We
especially thank you for your prayers
which have sustained us through this
hard time in the loss of Mom Spruce*

*Jim & Karen Spruce
& family & Sara Spruce*

Family Week 2011

July 10-14, 2011

Camp Meeting -- July 10 - 12

Conventions -- July 13

D.S. Report - July 13 - 7:00 PM

District Assembly -- July 13 - July 14

Nazarene Safe



Webinar
April 30, 2011



Riam Charles Young

Birthday: 2-21-2011
Weight: 9 lb. 2 oz.
Length: 21 in.

Proud Parents are Rev. Tim & Andrea Young, Jr. Rev. Young pastors our Granite City CTM church.

Proud Grand Parents are Rev. Tim & Sue Young, Sr. Rev. Young formerly served as our District Missionary.



Whitney Gabrielle Kirk

Born: February 22 at 7:47 am at Hannibal, MO
Weighed: 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long and had lots of dark colored hair.

Proud Parents are Jarrod & Michelle Kirk, laymen in our Pittsfield church and Michelle is the daughter of proud Grand Parents Rev. Mike & Shari Tapscott. Rev. Tapscott pastors our Decatur Parkway church.



Missional Strategy
MARK COPLEY, District Missionary
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E-mail: pastor@kznaz.org



Spring Is Coming!

***Let us acknowledge the LORD ; let us press on to acknowledge him.
As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us
...like the spring rains that water the earth." – Hosea 6:3***

After a long, cold winter, there are signs that the seasons are changing in Illinois. The temperatures are rising, and warmer breezes are blowing. Signs of new life are springing from the earth and budding on the trees. Robins bob, and squirrels scurry about my backyard finding food to refresh and sustain them. Spring is coming, and with it the rains that will no doubt bring new life to our part of the earth.

Hosea reminds us that these signs are also signs of God's promise to come to his people, to renew us as well. There are indeed signs of refreshing and showers of blessing throughout our District this season as well. I'm so blessed, in my expanded role as Mission Strategy Director, to get to see many of these signs firsthand. Let me share with you some of what I've experienced:

In **Harrisburg**, **Gary and Peggy Clark** have taken a core group they've nurtured from their New Start in neighboring Marion and successfully moved them to the facility of the once closed Harrisburg Church to form **Oasis Community Church**. An amazing renovation is happening as the gym is being transformed into a spacious sanctuary, new carpet and furnishing are being provided, and the people are alive with enthusiasm. The altars are filled weekly with seekers. And Gary reports several beautiful stories of people coming to or returning to Christ. Spring is coming to Harrisburg!

Urbana Lighthouse, where **Wayne and Karen Clevenger** serve so faithfully is enjoying a season of growth that is filling the tiny downstairs rented space with people and their joyful praise. Much of this is the result of their sports-based outreach ministry to their community. On a recent Sunday there, I was so blessed to see the enthusiasm of the people, and how they reflect the community right around the church. Spring is coming to Urbana!

We recently enjoyed Team Day South hosted by the **Salem Grace Church**. We gathered in the gym because of the new construction going on in the sanctuary. **Pastor Kevin Donoho** showed me around explaining the need for new space for their still growing congregation. Spring is coming to Salem!

Pastor Tim Crump and **Decatur First** helped to host and plan Team Day North back in February. What a great day it was! But what I noticed while we were there was all the activity happening besides our District Team Day. The building was filled with families there for Upward Basketball. It was a beehive of training, outreach, and fellowship. Tim assures me that this is regularly the case there as they continue to grow and minister to the people of Decatur. Spring is coming to Decatur!

Steve Shotts and the **Godfrey Church** are in the midst of ReFocusing their congregation around the mission of Christ. They have a committed Team and are seeking God's vision for renewal. They have started a Facebook group page where they can discuss what the Spirit is saying to them online. They are also using their website and podcasts to share their message with the web community. Spring is coming to Godfrey!

In **Benton**, **Jeff Stark** is leading the church through ReFocus as well. This ReFocus team is enthusiastic with half of them representing the next generation the church intends to reach. They are alive with creativity and are overcoming the challenges that change will no doubt bring. Spring is coming to Benton!

Vandalia recently made a bold move from their rented facilities to meet in the homes of **Pastor Nick and Melissa Briggs and the Englebrecksons**. Attendance has more than doubled and a young man has also come to Christ since doing so. They share a meal each Sunday as well as the Word, and are well on the way to being not one, but two house churches in the Vandalia area. Spring is coming to Vandalia!

Tim Young, Jr. is our church planter at **Granite City**. His messages at each of our Team Days were inspiring and challenging. God has given us a real champion in Tim and as he continues to build relationships in the Granite City community, we're certain Christ is going to produce a harvest from the seeds planted there. Pray for him and **Andrea** as they do so. Spring is coming to Granite City!

Sherman, under the leadership of **Will Haworth** is enjoying a renewal born of passionate prayer and faith. **Pastor Cory Jones** from Ft. Worth, Texas will soon be coming to lead them in revival, adding more expectation for renewal. Spring is coming to Sherman!

Sherman has also graciously invited everyone to join together in a **District Prayer Summit** they are hosting on **Friday, April 1 at 9:00am**. Could this be a day of outpouring upon the people of our District as we seek God together in prayer? As we press on to acknowledge the Lord on that day, will God not keep his promise to us and visit us like the Spring rains we so desperately need? I believe he will. These are just a few of the signs from the churches that I have seen. What is happening at your church, and how could you share it with others to inspire faith and hope? Let me know. And be assured, **Spring is coming to Illinois!**

**In Jesus,
Mark Copley
Mission Strategy Director
Illinois District**