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James Spruce
District Superintendent

VOL 65 NUMBER 7

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

APRIL 2012

Illinois District Prayer Encounter April 13-15

With Pastor Corey Jones

"Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers..." (Luke 10:2)

Friday, April 13th 7:00pm

Decatur Parkway Church of the Nazarene

2701 Faries Parkway, Decatur, IL

Pastor Mike Tapscott (217) 428-2721

Saturday, April 14th 10:00am

Roxana Church of the Nazarene

500 N. Central Ave., Roxana, IL

Pastor Larry Lacher (618) 254-4026

Saturday, April 14th 7:00pm

Belleville 1st Church of the Nazarene

1901 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL

Pastor Craig Dillman (618) 234-6981

Sunday, April 15th 10:30am

Springfield 1st Church of the Nazarene

5200 S. 6th St. Rd., Springfield, IL

Pastor Fred Prince (217) 529-6771



Pastor Corey Jones serves as pastor of Crossroads Tabernacle in Fort Worth, Texas. Since 1999, when prayer became the foundation of the church, it has become a place where prayers are continually answered and miracles still happen.

**"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work;
prayer is the greater work."
(Oswald Chambers)**



NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

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



Nazarene Missions
 INTERNATIONAL

Spring Deputation Tour

David and Marquita Mosher are global missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene serving in Zambia, Africa since 2008. Previous to this assignment they served in Sao Tome and Principe. Their assignment in Zambia includes assisting in pastoral leadership training on two districts. David serves as field treasurer and Marquita assists in training children's ministry leaders.

The Moshers began their missionary service in the Kingdom of Swaziland in 1983. They spent 10 years working at Siteki Nazarene High School. They also assisted at the Nazarene Bible College and were involved in outstation church work on the weekends.

In 1994, the Moshers were assigned to the northern provinces of Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. Their ministry involved training lay leaders as well as directing church planting and training of church leaders. The main work there was among the Macua tribe, which was the largest unreached people group in Africa at that time. The Moshers served in Mozambique until assigned to Sao Tome and Principe in 2001.

David received a B.S. from Southern Nazarene University, in Bethany, Oklahoma. He received an M.A. in missiology from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1993. Marquita received a B.A. in religion from Southern Nazarene University. David and Marquita were both ordained in Maputo, Mozambique, in 1996.

The Moshers have two adult children, LeCrecia and David C.

Spring Deputation Schedule

(Subject to change)

May 8	Olivet Zone	May 14	Illinois River Zone
May 9	Springfield Zone	May 15	Mississippi Valley Zone
May 10	Mattoon Zone	May 16	Mt Vernon Zone
May 11	open	May 17	Olney Zone
May 12	Champaign Zone	May 18	open
May 13	AM Shelbyville Faith Promise	May 19	open
	PM Decatur Zone	May 20	Murphysboro Zone

President's Update -- As of the writing of this month's Booster, I have just returned from the Prayer Vision Journey with the Global NMI. I am still suffering from the effects of jet lag after the two days of traveling to get home. What a blessing to be able to visit and worship with our brothers and sisters in the countries of Sri Lanka and India. Highlights of the trip included visiting Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Centers and Child Development Centers. We visited Mother Teresa's orphanage in Calcutta, her home and her tomb. We also were able to be at showings of the Jesus Film and to assist with those coming forward at the end of the film. Seeing the throngs of people certainly brings home Matthew 9:37 "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (NIV) What a blessing to be allowed to be a member of the PVJ Team. -- Bill Brandon

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
 - 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.

- Continued on Page 7-

**DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL &
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

JIM GERMAN, District Chairman
4672 White Oak Lane, Decatur, IL 62521
217-422-1458 E-mail: jgerman48@yahoo.com



Greetings to my Illinois District family! I am writing this from Sunny Bradenton Fla. at the Missionary Retirement village. First on my heart this month is the Prayer Encounter, April 13 - 15. Pastors, please plan to attend and encourage your people to attend as well. As I have said before, this is something that is very much on my heart. Also coming up is the Global day of prayer and fasting for Children ages 4-14 on 4/14/12 and the Global day of prayer on May 27, 2012.

I am highlighting two ministries of the SDMI this month, women's ministries and CLT. I have included articles from them below. The first is from Phyllis German (that name sounds familiar to me for some reason) for Ladies Ministries. The second is from Rev. John Barker, our new CLT chairman. Please take time to read both articles. - Jim German

Women's Ministries

We are just getting started and a committee has been formed:

Janet High, Champaign 1 st	Rachel Otto, Arcola
Susie Rinesmith, West Union	Frankie Garner, Sherman
Cindy Barker, Monticello	Teresa Taylor, Decatur Trinity
Rita L. Watson, Rantoul	

We would like to plan a mini retreat for the zones and/or one for the district. Our goal is to celebrate being women of God who learn and share with each other.

Check these web sites:

Mor2Lif (<http://mor2lif.org/>) for Bible Studies designed for young women

PWR (<http://pwr.nazarene.org/>) for resources for pastors' wives.

If you're a pastor's wife, check out Nazarene Pastors' Wives on Facebook.

Ladies Day at Olivet is April 14, 2012

You can register at <https://www.olivet.edu/aasecure/LD/register.asp>.

Come to the Fire: You can register at <http://cometothefire.org/>.

This ladies conference will be held on the campus of Olivet Nazarene University on **October 11-13, 2012**. I understand hotel rooms are pretty hard to get at this time, but check it out, anyway!

-- Phyllis German

CLT

Hello, my name is Pastor John Barker. The district SDMI team has appointed me the new CLT director for our great district. While I have been a CLT director before, I'm looking forward to working with Jim German and the great folks that make up our SDMI district team. I'm really excited about what the Lord is doing through the CLT ministry, especially through the website "The Discipleship Place" which is the global CLT website. Please take a moment to view all the great resources that are available through our church expressly for the reason to lead people to Jesus and then to disciple, mentor and training everyone for the work of ministry. My prayer is that all of us will draw closer to the Lord as we learn to articulate our faith and witness for God's glory. -- Pastor John Barker



**Ashes
to Fire**
YEAR B

JOURNEY
FROM ASH
WEDNESDAY
TO PENTECOST
WITH YOUR
CHURCH

DOWNLOAD A
FREE WEEK HERE

<http://www.ashestofire.com/>



**Sunday School Report
February 2012**

Church	Sunday Morning	Sunday School
Anna First	97	66
Arcola First	38	26
Arcola Spanish		
Auburn	44	71
Barry		
Beardstown	96	78
Beardstown Liberty	48	26
Hispanic		
Belleville Emmanuel	44	43
Belleville First		
Belleville Korean	24	19
Benton First		
Bethel Community	54	38
Carbondale New Begin. Com.		
Carlinville First	37	29
Carmi	45	29
Casey	145	83
Centralia		
Champaign First	130	73
Champaign New Day Com.	35	35
Chrisman		
Clinton First	79	62
Collinsville Good Samaritan	135	58
Decatur First	660	494
Decatur Oak Grove		
Decatur Parkway	70	56
Decatur Trinity		
Decatur West Side	79	58
Du Quoin		
Dupo Bluffview Christian Cnt.		
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	4	4
Edgemont Grace		
Fairfield Fountain of Life		
Fairview Heights Parkview	56	54
Flora	181	128
Georgetown	57	46
Glenview	84	56
Godfrey	39	35
Granite City CTM		
Griggsville		
Harrisburg Oasis Community		

Church	Sunday Morning	Sunday School
Highland		
Jerseyville		
Laclede		
Lincoln First	42	25
Mahomet	44	26
Mansfield Community	34	
Marion First	53	38
Mattoon East Side	96	93
Mattoon Real Life Com.	31	16
Monticello	21	19
Mount Carmel		
Mount Erie	36	24
Mount Sterling	32	17
Mount Vernon Faith	28	22
Murphysboro	67	40
Nebo	54	27
Oakwood	6	
Ogden		
Olivet	60	39
Olney	62	47
Pana First		
Paris First	75	43
Pittsfield		
Quincy Emmanuel		
Rantoul	60	35
Roxana	135	137
Royalton First	94	88
Salem Grace	483	234
Shelbyville		
Sherman	89	74
Sparta		
Springfield First		
Springfield Trinity	44	35
Taylorville First		
Tuscola	44	8
Urbana Lighthouse	75	67
Vandalia		
Virden		
West Union		
Total	4044	2815



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



eVerYthinG yOu NeEd to knoW aBout caMp
hErE:

<http://www.camptablerock.com/Illinois.html>

All Adult Youth Sponsors will now be required to complete a background check in order to participate in any district-wide activity.

http://www.newweb2011.illinoisnaz.org/html/district_screening.html

Thank you!!

UPCOMING DATES:

REGIONAL CELEBRATE LIFE: MAY 17-19 (ONU)

CAMP TABLE ROCK: JUNE 25-29 (See link above)

COMBINED CONVENTION DAY: JULY 11 (Decatur 1st)

BUDGET REPORT JANUARY 31, 2012

Church Name	District	Olivet	NMI	SDMI	NYI	WEF	P & B
Anna First	\$6,892.16	\$3,636.57	\$613.94	\$311.49	\$401.06	\$6,784.06	\$2,909.26
Arcola First	\$1,894.25	\$726.07	\$168.73	\$85.60	\$110.22	\$2,099.00	\$737.47
Arcola Spanish	\$675.34	\$373.20	\$60.15	\$30.52	\$39.29	\$1,180.50	\$178.00
Auburn	\$2,264.20	\$1,000.00	\$201.70	\$102.34	\$131.76	\$2,645.00	\$950.00
Barry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Beardstown	\$5,873.33	\$2,665.46	\$523.19	\$265.48	\$341.79	\$6,917.26	\$2,401.79
Beardstown Liberty Hispanic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belleville Emmanuel	\$763.22	\$192.23	\$67.99	\$34.50	\$44.42	\$1,622.71	\$621.31
Belleville First	\$6,984.58	\$1,886.80	\$622.16	\$315.66	\$406.44	\$5,000.00	\$4,019.41
Belleville Korean	\$2,478.06	\$300.00	\$220.75	\$112.00	\$144.19	\$700.00	\$650.00
Benton	\$580.56	\$306.08	\$51.71	\$26.24	\$33.78	\$2,343.92	\$1,103.18
Bethel	\$3,490.25	\$1,404.00	\$310.90	\$157.74	\$203.11	\$5,212.00	\$1,385.00
Bluff View Christian Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carbondale New Beginnings	\$940.36	\$0.00	\$83.77	\$42.50	\$54.72	\$1,014.64	\$377.70
Carlinville First	\$1,531.66	\$518.94	\$136.43	\$69.23	\$89.14	\$950.67	\$622.24
Carmi	\$686.82	\$514.00	\$61.17	\$31.04	\$39.97	\$1,805.00	\$638.00
Casey	\$8,772.24	\$4,148.35	\$781.40	\$396.45	\$510.47	\$15,121.00	\$3,868.55
Centralia	\$2,516.30	\$1,047.00	\$224.14	\$113.73	\$146.44	\$2,921.00	\$1,070.00
Champaign First	\$4,621.07	\$2,151.02	\$411.63	\$208.84	\$268.92	\$5,359.93	\$1,949.09
Champaign New Day	\$58.69	\$37.00	\$5.23	\$2.66	\$3.42	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chrisman	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clinton First	\$5,618.62	\$2,550.00	\$500.49	\$253.93	\$326.96	\$7,120.00	\$2,630.00
Collinsville Good Samaritan	\$1,336.29	\$705.08	\$119.03	\$60.40	\$77.76	\$1,792.91	\$564.06
Decatur First	\$23,332.37	\$10,784.45	\$2,078.39	\$1,054.48	\$1,357.76	\$36,606.48	\$10,298.58
Decatur Oak Grove	\$1,429.96	\$632.00	\$127.38	\$64.62	\$83.22	\$1,778.00	\$649.00
Decatur Parkway	\$6,199.81	\$2,736.81	\$552.27	\$280.18	\$360.80	\$7,415.03	\$2,562.17
Decatur Trinity	\$2,163.90	\$1,136.54	\$192.77	\$97.80	\$125.93	\$2,500.39	\$909.23
Decatur West Side	\$4,584.80	\$3,723.71	\$408.41	\$207.21	\$266.81	\$5,337.21	\$1,955.11
Du Quoin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	\$297.71	\$160.00	\$26.54	\$13.47	\$17.33	\$345.00	\$138.00
Edgemont Grace	\$1,137.44	\$0.00	\$101.33	\$51.40	\$66.19	\$734.92	\$269.63
Fairfield Fountain of Life	\$335.44	\$0.00	\$29.88	\$15.16	\$19.52	\$1,655.04	\$728.10
Fairview Heights Parkview	\$2,394.28	\$879.73	\$213.27	\$108.19	\$139.31	\$2,922.00	\$1,396.50
Flora	\$5,038.50	\$2,628.93	\$448.82	\$227.72	\$293.20	\$9,223.46	\$2,307.48
Georgetown	\$5,534.74	\$600.00	\$493.02	\$250.14	\$322.08	\$6,500.00	\$2,342.69
Glenview	\$4,040.61	\$1,754.95	\$359.92	\$182.61	\$235.13	\$5,374.00	\$1,575.14
Godfrey	\$757.90	\$160.41	\$67.52	\$34.26	\$44.10	\$502.37	\$323.76
Granite City CTM	\$45.46	\$25.00	\$4.05	\$2.05	\$2.64	\$52.14	\$20.00
Griggsville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Harrisburg Oasis Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland	\$214.14	\$0.00	\$19.09	\$9.70	\$12.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jerseyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$230.66	\$0.00
Laclede	\$542.38	\$256.16	\$48.31	\$24.52	\$31.56	\$951.06	\$238.59
Lincoln	\$2,306.14	\$1,150.00	\$205.42	\$104.24	\$134.20	\$2,650.00	\$970.00
Mahomet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mansfield Community	\$2,493.99	\$1,313.00	\$222.16	\$112.71	\$145.14	\$2,860.00	\$1,051.00
Marion First	\$508.17	\$455.00	\$45.28	\$22.98	\$29.57	\$1,285.58	\$350.00
Marshall	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mattoon East Side	\$3,832.62	\$1,724.05	\$341.40	\$173.21	\$223.02	\$5,564.39	\$1,494.60
Mattoon Real Life Community	\$2,287.98	\$1,069.89	\$203.80	\$103.40	\$133.14	\$3,005.03	\$1,099.91
Monticello	\$1,816.79	\$1,068.59	\$161.84	\$82.10	\$105.73	\$2,553.00	\$546.00
Mount Carmel	\$1,278.02	\$0.00	\$113.84	\$57.76	\$74.35	\$638.69	\$549.34
Mount Erie	\$1,488.18	\$635.47	\$132.56	\$67.26	\$86.61	\$1,598.49	\$585.44
Mount Sterling	\$368.56	\$0.00	\$32.83	\$16.66	\$21.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Vernon	\$653.28	\$50.00	\$58.19	\$29.52	\$38.01	\$1,120.00	\$700.00
Murphysboro	\$3,374.36	\$0.00	\$300.61	\$152.53	\$196.37	\$3,030.00	\$1,543.88
Nebo	\$2,015.55	\$804.34	\$179.54	\$91.09	\$117.28	\$2,319.46	\$848.27
Oakwood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Ogden	\$3,536.29	\$2,197.39	\$315.00	\$159.81	\$205.78	\$4,194.87	\$1,535.31
Olivet	\$3,034.05	\$835.00	\$270.27	\$137.12	\$176.56	\$2,000.00	\$1,205.00
Olney	\$3,291.90	\$1,282.86	\$293.22	\$148.76	\$191.53	\$2,720.37	\$1,159.29
Pana First	\$1,179.80	\$1,108.31	\$105.09	\$53.32	\$68.65	\$2,499.22	\$908.83
Paris First	\$1,951.00	\$930.52	\$173.80	\$88.18	\$113.53	\$3,995.89	\$943.86
Pittsfield	\$13,229.74	\$6,980.81	\$1,178.47	\$597.94	\$769.90	\$15,921.05	\$5,584.45
Quincy Emmanuel	\$3,069.61	\$447.86	\$273.43	\$138.73	\$178.63	\$3,636.55	\$875.52
Rantoul	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,212.00	\$222.23
Roxana	\$12,225.03	\$5,614.18	\$1,088.98	\$552.51	\$711.40	\$14,043.23	\$5,120.94
Royalton First	\$2,498.18	\$898.00	\$222.53	\$112.91	\$145.38	\$3,250.00	\$718.00
Salem Grace	\$19,861.94	\$10,479.93	\$1,769.23	\$897.66	\$1,155.81	\$23,055.85	\$8,397.96
Shelbyville	\$9,809.31	\$3,526.47	\$873.78	\$443.33	\$570.83	\$10,634.63	\$3,902.96
Sherman	\$4,411.89	\$1,928.96	\$393.00	\$199.41	\$256.73	\$4,734.30	\$1,722.66
Sparta	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,177.00	\$5,922.10
Springfield Trinity	\$1,598.93	\$1,025.12	\$142.44	\$72.27	\$93.04	\$2,822.00	\$1,400.27
Taylorville First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuscola	\$1,683.72	\$500.00	\$149.99	\$76.09	\$97.97	\$2,910.00	\$800.00
Urbana Lighthouse	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$265.41	\$98.64
Vandalia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Virden	\$350.26	\$44.43	\$31.20	\$15.83	\$20.38	\$372.75	\$44.43
West Union	\$1,137.13	\$0.00	\$101.30	\$51.40	\$66.17	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$221,319.86	\$95,710.67	\$19,714.68	\$10,002.59	\$12,879.07	\$293,597.12	\$102,689.93



(Continued from page two.)

- 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!

Regardless of where you live in the world, it is easy to think that where you live is the most important place in the world. This is particularly true for children. However, the elementary years are a great time to help the children develop a global perspective, especially in regard to the discipleship efforts around the world.

Thank you, Dr. Spruce and Karen and the wonderful people of the Illinois District. Your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement have meant the world to us. The beautiful plant is in our living room and will serve as a reminder of God's family -- strong and rooted in love. Elizabeth, mom, now sits at the feet of Jesus. We are blessed to be a part of the district. --- Jim & Phyllis German

The Board of Ministerial Credentials will meet May 11, 2012. If you are seeking a District Minister's License or Ordination, you need to contact Rev. Doug Haynes, revdehaynes@sbcglobal.net or 618-462-4361.



An Oasis Indeed

Pastor Gary Clark and his wife, Peggy began planting a new church in Marion in 2007 with “no building, no people, and no money.” They gathered a small group who began renting a Seventh Day Adventist Church facility to meet on Sunday afternoons, and Thursday evenings.

The district had recently closed the church in Harrisburg, leaving a building in disrepair, with water damage, and an unused, unfinished gymnasium. Dr. Spruce met with Gary with a question in mind, “Could the new church plant in Marion become a source of new life in Harrisburg?” This would be a sort of homecoming to Gary and Peggy who had served the Harrisburg community as pastor from 1984-1992. After several months of praying, Pastor Clark agreed to move the Marion congregation to Harrisburg to inhabit the old facility. Their first Sunday there was in June of 2010.



What has happened since then can only be described as a “resurrection story.” Pews and chairs were donated from two other closed churches on the District (Granite City and Vandalia). The Mission Strategy Team approved a \$5,000 New Start Grant to fund repairs, and the District Advisory Board loaned the church \$40,000 interest free, with payments equal to the amount that the church plant had been paying for rental. (25% has already been repaid.) Members of the congregation began to believe in the vision and several have given gifts of thousands of dollars. “And I haven’t even preached on tithing,” laughs Gary.

The facilities, once damaged, have been healed, remodeled, and vastly improved. One would almost describe the results as a “Total Church Makeover”! All the water damage has been repaired, new carpet and furniture now greets

guests in the lobby, and the gym has been transformed into a beautiful sanctuary, seating over 300, with a state of the art sound system. A new sign, now reading “Oasis Community Church of the Nazarene” was donated as well.

New people are visiting the congregation regularly to worship and to find Christ. Some have found salvation or sanctification, been delivered from drugs, teenagers have been saved, marriages healed, and the word of God is spreading. Gary says, “People are coming and finding something they’ve been hungry for.” The average attendance has grown to 65.

Gary and Peggy have always been involved in music ministry and the music at Oasis is “absolutely phenomenal.” “God has sent us two of the most accomplished, talented musicians I’ve ever heard in my life. God is drawing people with great talent to join us in our worship.” The music at Oasis is “traditional and southern gospel, with some choruses.” This direction was important to Pastor Clark, and God has blessed it, drawing many of the people in that region. Their Sunday evening services are as strong in attendance as their Sunday mornings. This shows the wisdom that we need all kinds of churches, and different styles of music, to reach all kinds of people. “The Lord has proven himself faithful again in a marvelous way. These are some of the most exciting days in my ministry. And, I am confident that the Lord is still the source and resource of all we do,” says Pastor Clark.

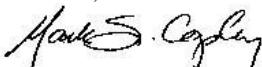


But the ministry of the Oasis Community is not just about worship services and good music. On February 29th, the Harrisburg town was hit by a devastating tornado. Several lives were lost, and many homes were destroyed. Though neither the church building nor members of the congregation were directly affected, the people of the church sprang to action to serve their hurting neighbors.

Pastor Clark worked closely with Operation Blessing and other area churches to coordinate response efforts. Oasis Community hosted volunteers from several churches on our District. Church members from Decatur First, Decatur Parkway, Royalton, Marshall, Casey, and Salem were housed and/or fed by the church. Two teams from Freewill Baptist churches were also cared for. The church received and distributed support from several district churches, retired pastors, and individual donors. Communication with

Compassionate Ministries at the Global Ministry Center was also handled by the church. Three leaders from Operation Blessing, and four of the insurance adjusters (who used the church building for office space) worshiped with the congregation while they were there. The Oasis Community served as a witness to them all, and through their compassionate service, represented the “living water” of Christ, amidst the wilderness-like aftermath of the storm. They have lived up to their name, an Oasis indeed.

In Jesus,


Mission Strategy Director

