



Fall 2006

District Update

South Dakota Assemblies of God



Their Life: Your Hands - Vote

RESOURCING TODAY'S CHURCH
FOR BETTER MINISTRY
TO EVERY AGE
AND WALK OF LIFE



THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT UPDATE
YOUR CONNECTION TO MINISTRIES, NEWS & EVENTS



UPDATE

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The *SOUTH DAKOTA UPDATE* is a quarterly publication of the South Dakota District Council of the Assemblies of God located at 4220 W. 38th St. in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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For Such A Time As This!



since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973? What were all of these lives set apart for, and what would our world be like today if they were still here?

Think of this: throughout the United States there are no less than 1,300,000 babies murdered via abortion every year. That's more than two infant murders every minute! Around the world, the estimate is over 50,000,000 children who are slaughtered under the sterile description of abortion each year. In other words, 3 BABIES ARE KILLED EVERY 2 SECONDS!!! On average, nearly 70 babies are murdered through abortion every month in South Dakota. In light of that, how long do you think we should wait before ending this practice?

We have been asleep at the wheel for far too long, and we can do something about it! This is simply a request for you to pray. Millions of dollars will be spent in our small state in the next few weeks—most of it on ads that are designed to bend people's emotions to vote one way or the other. Those campaigns are important, but I am convinced that the issue will be won or lost in an entirely different arena—that of the Spirit.

As followers of Jesus Christ we have a wonderful promise that I am sure you have probably heard many times. 2 Chronicles 7:14 promises: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." The issue is in our hands!

This is our time to answer God's call to pray—AND TO VOTE OUR CONVICTIONS! I firmly believe that we can give these children a voice they've never been allowed to have on the earth. We can get the ball rolling here, and once we do, I believe it will be an unstoppable force to end this tragedy.



I have one final word for those of you who have been impacted by abortion in a personal way. If you have had an abortion or urged someone else to do so, there is forgiveness and mercy. You are among the forgotten victims of abortion, and my heart and prayers go out to the Lord on your behalf. Seek Him for forgiveness, cleansing and healing. God's mercies are new every morning, and they are yours for the asking.

God's richest blessings to you,

Rev. Tom Rooney (Sioux Falls)
Christian Center School Administrator

As of 12:00:01 on July 1st, 2006, unborn babies were supposed to be afforded the protection of the law in South Dakota. Unfortunately, those who feel that an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy is a "choice" supersedes another person's right to live, have generated a delay in the law's effective date. The new law has been referred to the state's voters, who will decide the matter on November 7th. The delay caused by this process generates a price too high to pay.

Scripture is also quite clear that the baby has an identity before the Lord. Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Doesn't it make you wonder sometimes just what we are missing with the loss of the more than 50 million U.S. babies who have been murdered

We Love Our Pastor!!

In traveling around the district, it makes me feel so good when people will come up to me and tell me how much they love their pastor. Pastors are a gift from God that should be held in high regard and treasured. Unfortunately, the statistics of how many ministers are leaving the ministry is staggering. Over 1600 ministers leave the ministry each MONTH.



The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments — the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants and to honor them. "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." (1 Timothy 5:17) I encourage you to pray constantly for your pastor and his or her family. Your prayers will make all the difference in the world to your pastor! Then put your prayers to action by volunteering to relieve some of the load. Be creative, but do something that will bless and lift the spirits of these choice servants of God.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Take this as an opportunity to plan for an appreciation event in your church. There are lots of resources to assist you in the planning. If you need further information, just give the district office a call. We'll help you find a way to say... "We love our pastors!"



Rev. Stephen Schaible
SD Superintendent

God is Moving in "Indian Country"

...“HUD?” No, it’s not my Southern accent as in, “I ‘hud’ a really good story today.” H.U.D. is the acronym for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. This summer H.U.D. requested we make a presentation during a conference at National American University in Rapid City concerning the Assemblies of God’s mission’s projects throughout S.D. Get this, the U.S. Government entitled this segment, “Inspirational Success Stories Of The Assemblies of God Native American Missions.”

This is not a small thing! Rather, it shows the impact of the Gospel of Christ on people and even entire communities that even the U.S. Government can see and appreciate. We thank God for those who labor faithfully in Native American Ministries and we know most importantly that HE knows the changed hearts and lives and is glad. What about you? We know that God cares for these changed lives. Even our own Government believes in the Assemblies of God’s missions in S.D. Do you? Does your church? Is this vital mission field a part of your missions program and prayer concerns? We are so thankful to those who have cared for, supported and prayed for this ministry. It has not been in vain.

This summer has been one busy one for us, as we know it has been for you! The parsonage at Lower Brule has been totally renovated, Pastors Randy and Rebecca Jensen are there, and they hit the road “RUNNING.” They’ve been blessed with three teams this summer. Missionary K.C. Kapaska is bringing a group from Missouri to minister in the form of the “Stomp” (Don’t ask! If you don’t know what Stomp, is you’re not alone!). We know it will be a great and FUN time

Continued on page 7.



SCRAPING PAINT: PASTOR RANDY JENSEN (L) AND VOLUNTEER (R)



NEW PAINT IN LOWER BRULE

US & WORLD MISSIONS

Things That Make You Go “Hmmm!”

Just some thoughts that make you go “hmm!”

We in the USA spend about \$500 million on face cream each year. Incidentally, that’s about 25% of what the church gives to missions in a year. We spend over \$600 million on golf balls – not to mention green fees, golf equipment and riding in a golf cart. That’s about 30% of what we give to missions.

Americans buy about 90 million pair of sunglasses, spending about \$1 billion each year. Again, that’s about ½ of what we gave to missions. Two billion dollars was spent on purchasing one brand of gym shoes last year. Two billion dollars is what we gave to missions.



We spent \$49 billion on soft drinks, \$1.4 billion on peanut butter and \$13.5 billion on hot dogs. In the US a total of \$79 billion was exchanged for a fast food meal (almost 40 times what we gave to missions). After we ate on the run, we spent about \$12 billion trying to get rid of the unwanted pounds, which is about six times what we gave to missions.

We totaled \$1 billion on Christmas trees and \$15 billion for the toys under the trees. Additionally, we mustered \$2 billion to spend on our pets.

If you add all of this up it totals \$177 billion. There are somewhere around 90 million who claim to go to church on a somewhat regular basis. Those churchgoers gave about \$2 billion to missions which is about \$23.00 per person.

“Hmm!”

TREASURER’S CORNER

No Longer a Thank-less Ministry

Several days ago I spoke with a woman in one of our Assemblies of God churches, who for many years, served as the Missions fund treasurer for her church. Each month she would carefully prepare the forms along with that month’s offering that eventually went on to support both home and foreign missionaries. Probably few of those persons who faithfully and sacrificially gave thought much about who counted it and how it was sent. Probably few of the missionaries who diligently served thought much about the persons who maintained giving records and filled out the forms.

Therefore, I’d like to thank all the persons in each of our churches who count the offerings received in worship services, Sunday School classes, and mid-week ministries. I’m grateful for those who stack small change from BGMC barrels and remove crumpled bills from Speed-the-Light envelopes. We’ve been deeply blessed by people who do so many “behind-the-scene” things like maintaining class records, taking notes in board meetings, and balancing church checkbooks.



The Kingdom of God has grown, in part, because of Godly people who pray, give, sacrifice...and faithfully serve year after year.

Wisdom from Warped Wood

HonorBound Devotional - Wisdom of the Ages: Proverbs - July 27, 2006
Straight, Strong and Level Lives

"A man is praised according to his wisdom, but men with warped minds are despised" (Proverbs 12:8).

I watched a construction crew recently as they were framing a house with lumber. The person choosing the pieces of lumber would take warped pieces and put them aside. Only the straight boards were used to construct the homes. The small pieces of the warped lumber were used only after they were sawn into smaller pieces. The reason for only using the straight boards was so the house would be strong, straight and level. One built with warped lumber will fall.

Taking counsel from someone with a warped mind would cause certain failure as well. We live in a culture that actually has many authorities who do not use wisdom. They work from what will get them the next election or opportunity. As someone has said, "Some of my friends are for it and some of my friends are against it. I am for my friends!" Some of our professors teach from a value system that is absent from any biblical values. Teaching that does not come from a commitment to truth will never lead one to the truth. You can get facts, but facts and the truth can be two totally different things.

Get wisdom and live your life from it. Listen to men of wisdom, and leave the others in a different pile like the warped lumber. There is just too much at stake to not despise that which is not right. Build your life with the right things so it will be strong, straight and level.



LIGHT FOR THE LOST

Steak Wagon Tour Details

September:		
10 - Sunday	11:30 AM	Yankton, First A/G
10 - Sunday	6:00 PM	Vermillion, Cornerstone Church
11 - Monday	OPEN	
12 - Tuesday	6:30 PM	Watertown, Christian Life Fellowship
13 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Aberdeen, First Assembly of God
14 - Thursday	6:30 PM	Lead, First Assembly of God
15 - Friday	OPEN	Royal Rangers, Pierre
16 - Saturday	6:30 PM	Hot Springs, Fountain of Life A/G
17 - Sunday	NOON	Sturgis, Christian Family A/G
17 - Sunday	6:00 PM	Spearfish, Calvary Temple A/G

November:		
8 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Brookings, First A/G
9 - Thursday	OPEN	
10 - Friday	6:30 PM	Sioux Falls, Calvary A/G
11 - Saturday	6:00 PM	Huron, First Assembly of God
12 - Sunday	8:30/10:45 AM	Sioux Falls, First A/G
12 - Sunday	PM OPEN	

Price: \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 age 6-12, age 5 and under FREE

LFTL Tour Speaker

J.R. Gould, presently in his 33 year of Kingdom work, enjoys a rich and diverse ministry. Spending his first 20 ministry years in pastoral ministry, he and his wife, Shirley transitioned into missions, serving two terms in the East Africa country of Kenya.



J.R. Gould

During those years, the primary assignment was the establishing of churches, with over 30 churches planted during that season. Because of a heavy focus on Good News crusades, LFTL significantly assisted in this great emphasis.

Primarily focusing on the primitive unreached tribes, J.R. helped to start Kenya's Department of Missions while assisting with the completion of over 110 churches and four Bible Schools. The last term found a new focus, the starting of the Royal Rangers program in Kenya. Once more, the Light-for-the-Lost investment help develop the curriculum for this ministry that now targets over 7 million boys under the age of 15.



J.R. With
Massai Chief

J.R. continues to serve Africa by taking church planting and construction teams into Africa. The most recent trip found him in the historic town of TIMBUKTU, constructing the only A/G church within 1000 miles East or 1000 miles West in this Sahara Desert crossroads. His stories of bush life and God's hand on evangelism will amaze you, as you join him in giving glory to the Lord for the Kingdom impact now happening.

LFTL Touches South Dakota Native Ministries

The Ministry Team of the Oglala ReCreation Center as well as Missionaries Tim Elaine Harris want to thank Brother Tim Cushman and Light for the Lost for providing funds which made it possible to purchase almost \$1,400 worth of magazines and Bibles as well as study guides for the youth and children of the Oglala ReCreation Center. These funds have made a difference in the lives of many youth and children by opening the Bible up in a whole new dimension for them. We are so very grateful and thankful for ministries such as Light for the Lost and BGMC which make materials available for Missions works!

Blessings again Brother Cushman and LFTL!

*The Ministry Team of Oglala Re*Creation Center;
 Pastor Eric Sutton, Program Directors: Rev. Leon Schwartz, Gabe Schwartz; and Missionaries Tim and Elaine Harris*

Fall Retreat

Join us October 6-7 for our annual Women's Ministry Fall Retreat. We're moving our retreat for 2006 to Kamp Kinship, located just 12 miles south of Lead. You'll love the peace and quiet of the beautiful Black Hills, the friendship and connection with Godly women from across South Dakota, and the fabulous food.

This year's retreat begins with registration check-in at 1:00 PM and ends after lunch on Saturday. The registration fee of \$45 covers all expenses. To register, please talk to your local women's coordinator so all ladies from your church can register together. Registrations and payment should be sent to Janel Campell at 518 17th Ave. South, Brookings, SD 57006. The registration deadline is October 2nd. Phone registrations will not be accepted.

Watch our website (women.sdag.org) for online registration, payment, and more information. Our missions project is "Windows for Ukraine."

In Him,
Rev. Dorothy Tufte Ludens
District Women's Ministries Unlimited Director

Fall Retreat Speaker

Christa Pitcairn graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 1998. After working in the fashion industry for several years, she felt called to leave the business world to pursue ministry training at Hillsongs International Leadership College in Sydney, Australia. Upon her return to the U.S., Christa was hired by Fremont First Assembly of God in California to launch a school of ministry called "Revolution Discipleship Center."

In September 2005, Christa was hired by The International Church of Las Vegas to serve as the director of conference, events, marketing and promotion. With Christa's heart for the prophetic ministry, she often teaches at ICLV as well as travels and speaks at various churches and conferences in the U.S. Her teaching centers around her passion to see people launched into their spiritual destiny.

National Conference for Women in Ministry



September 21-22 – Minneapolis, MN at Emmanuel Christian Center. Enjoy the ministry of Sheri Benvenuti, Brenda Salter-McNeil and Sharon Fridge. There will be lots of wonderful breakout sessions, plus 2 intensive session options on Thursday and Friday on "Advanced Counseling in Ministry" or "Preaching."

Lois Hostettler, pastor's wife from Pierre, and Mona Shields, Rachel Schaible's sister, will be ministering in the breakout sessions. Get information online at www.womeninministry.ag.org, by phone at (417) 833-5558, or through e-mail at agcwim@aol.com.

If you are interested in going with a group, please let the district office know. Pre-registration is \$75 and is due by September 8th. This conference has been in Springfield, MO in the past, and we are blessed to have one not too far away. I know this conference will be a great resource for your ministry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Junior Bible Quiz: Affecting Children for a Lifetime



SIoux FALLS FIRST A/G AT REGIONAL FINALS

It's always amazing to think about the amount of Scripture that can fit into the mind of an elementary student. It's a highlight of my school year to go each month to a Bible Quiz meet. Not only are the kids excited to be there, the parents tickled about their kids involvement, and the churches great to work with; but I get to see dozens of kids memorizing Scripture and facts about God and the Bible.

This may seem trivial to those of us who are the "over-churched-Sunday-school-creatures." But to these kids, it's the life of God breathing into them. The elements of the Bible they memorize will help them when they meet temptations, face doubters in school, or have a friend who needs prayer. Bible Quiz and scripture memorization should be the foundation for every Kids ministry in our church today.



RAPID CITY BETHEL A/G AT REGIONAL FINALS

We are experiencing tremendous growth in this ministry! If you would like to be involved, please contact my office for an introductory packet and the name of an existing JBQ church to help you get started.

The Junior Bible Quiz season runs from October through April. For complete details on the quizzing ministry, please head to jbq.atripleshot.com.

Fall Retreat

As we watch the scenes unfolding in the Middle East we are reminded of the old hymn: "Work, for the night is coming when man's work is done." Seniors, although we can no longer do much of the physical work we were capable of in our earlier years, we can pray and that can be a 'full-time job.'

Fall is again quickly approaching and we are looking forward to the Middle and Senior Adult Fall Retreat to be held September 6th-8th. After a few anxious days in early June, when it became necessary for our scheduled speaker to cancel, we had a very definite answer to our prayers. Just three days later, a friend in Aberdeen inquired about our speaker for retreat. We shared that he had cancelled and were pleasantly surprised when he said: "I know just the person to fill that spot." It definitely was part of God's plan, as when we contacted him he was available, and the Lord had already prepared his heart with the Word to share with us. God is good and we thank Him for His faithfulness in this matter. We know that this will again be a time of rest, reviving and renewal.



We are privileged to have Rev. James & Victoria Griep of Cypress, TX as our guest speakers and special music.

A native of South Dakota, Rev. Griep was pastor in Philadelphia, PA for 15 years. He also lived in the Pittsburgh area where he taught on staff at the Greater Pittsburgh School of the Bible. He is founding pastor of two Assembly of God churches in northwest Houston, Texas.

Rev. Griep and his wife, Victoria, have traveled extensively in the states, as well as in overseas ministry in Argentina, Nigeria, Russia, Bolivia, Peru, Honduras, Jamaica and Mexico.

Brother Griep's exposure to a wide range of cultures and experiences will enhance his presentation of "The Joyous Christian Life."



Come and enjoy their ministry, quality time with friends and the beauty of God's creation.

*Nels & Angie Easterby
District Senior Adult Ministries Directors*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Is Your Classroom Empty?

Do you struggle getting people to attend your Sunday morning classes? Let us suggest you try the following:

1. **Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the needs in your church/community and find a way to use your class time to meet those needs.
2. **Step Back:** Starbucks brews a fresh pot of coffee every hour to ensure you have a fresh cup whenever you go in. Ask yourself if you're giving your people something fresh each week or if it's scraped off the bottom of the pot.
3. **Re-Align:** Discover a new class topic that may not be in your comfort zone; develop a new teacher or request a resource from our library. Did you know we have a library of videos and curriculum available for free? To find out what is in our library, contact pastor Dave Tims at Calvary A/G in Sioux Falls at (605) 336-9270.
4. **Re-Invent:** Maybe it's time to call the district CE director for a church training session, evaluation, or just to generate some ideas.
5. **Remember:** Christian Education is VITAL to the health of your church. Please don't ever give up.



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

of outreach for Lakeview Church! We want to thank Pastors Randy & Hazel Hahne from Winner, and Pastor's wife Jane Ballard and congregation as well as District Superintendent Steve Schaible and wife Rachel for all their hard work and time to help get the renovations done at Lower Brule. Thank you to Missionary/Pastor Dennis Preston for the funding to purchase a new stove for the parsonage in Lower Brule.



Missionary/Pastors Dennis and Martha Preston were blessed with numerous V.B.S. teams this summer as well as "On Eagle's Wings." Many Native young people as well as adult's lives were changed through these many outreaches! These are just a few of the things that have been happening in "Indian Country" throughout our state.

We thank God for all He has done and continues to do here in our state in the lives and ministries on our reservations. Blessings, and thank you again for your continued and faithful support of SD Native Ministries.



*Rev. Tim Harris
Native American Ministries Director*

September:

- 4: Labor Day
- 6-8: Senior Adult Retreat [*Camp Judson*]
- 10-16: National Missionettes Week
- 10-17: Light For The Lost Tour
- 15-17: Royal Rangers Pow Wow [*Pierre*]
- 21-22: National Women In Ministry Conference [*Minneapolis, MN*]
- 22-23: National Missionettes Sleepover
- 24: National Sunday School & Teacher Day
- 25-27: Minister's & Spouses Retreat [*Pierre*]
- 27: See You At The Pole
- 27: See You At The Altar Day
- 29: JBQ Meet 1 [*East River - Overnighter*]

October: Pastor Appreciation Month

- 1-7: National Royal Rangers Week
- 6-7: WMU Retreat [*Kamp Kinship*]
- 8: National Ministers Day
- 9: Native American/Columbus Day
- 15: National Speed The Light Day
- 22: National Children's Ministries Day

November:

- 3-5: Youth Convention [*Pierre*]
- 5: Single Adult Day
- 7: Election Day
- 11: Veteran's Day
- 12: Int'l Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- 23: Thanksgiving

December:

- 3: National Teen Challenge Day
- 25: Christmas

seeking, sitting, stretching, strengthening



the gathering
women with ministry in focus!

2006
National Conferences
at three sites

March 23-24, 2006 - Vanguard University,
Costa Mesa, CA (Los Angeles)

March 30-31, 2006 - Valley Forge Christian College,
Phoenixville, PA (Philadelphia)

September 21-22, 2006 - North Central University,
Minneapolis, MN

Plenary speakers include:

Brenda Salter McNeil,
Alicia Chole, Sheri Benvenuti,
Stefanie Choppell, Beth Grant

For registration & housing info,
go to www.womeninministry.ag.org
Other inquiries:
417-833-5558
or agcwim@aol.com



seeking, sitting, stretching

Sponsored by the Executive Leadership of the Assemblies of God

Update

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