

THE Keystone PA DISTRICT UPCI

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

“Pennsylvania ... the “field” calls out to us. Keep working, this truly is HARVEST TIME.”

PA District Superintendent: [REV. MICKEY CLUSTER](#)

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

The Puritans had a practice that would be helpful for Christians in the twenty-first century – in their writings, they often mentioned engaging in godly conversations with one another. They even coined a term for these conversations: “Conference.” We, of course, use the word conference for something else. For those Puritans, however, conferencing was about making time for intentional biblical conversations that helped to edify the souls of others. They would assemble after a sermon to rehash what they had heard in order to remember it and to think about how to put it into practice. They would also come together apart from sermons to read passages of Scripture and to talk

about what they had learned from God’s Word. They engaged in these conversations regularly – one-on-one, in groups, in the family, in the church, and when they could, in the world. They actually viewed conversation that incorporated Scripture as a Christian discipline, much like we view prayer or Bible reading or going to church. We badly need to recover this spiritual discipline among ourselves ... talking about what God is doing and showing us through his Word, not only in our local assemblies, but throughout our section, state, and world! Now, that’s a “conference” worth attending! It starts here, with this issue of the KEYSTONE ... let’s [TALK ABOUT IT](#) with one another.

[TONY MANSINHO](#) / Keystone Editor



PRAY PA and THE GREATEST OF THESE

It is the time of year when new life emerges ... Spring!

With Spring comes the time set aside to honor our parents, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Both holidays afford us the opportunity to acknowledge the love and sacrifice our parent(s) had for us. Everyone’s life is different. I don’t presume to stereotype everyone’s upbringing the same. But for the most part, each of us had a parent who loved and provided for us. My dad told me once that the best gift we could give him was to love and look out for each other! He said he could go to his grave without worry, knowing that

we would be looked out for and loved by one another. I have recalled that statement continually over the years, not because I feel the need to look out for my siblings but because, when I read the Bible it alludes to unity and love for each other. I am then reminded how important love is to my Heavenly Father! There are many exhortations and commandments for us to love one another! In the Epistles there is a continual focus on love and unity! Here are a few.

- I John 4:20 states that we are “liars” if we say we love God whom we haven’t seen but don’t love our brothers whom we have seen.
- I John 13:34-35 speaks of a new commandment that we should love one another just as He loved us. By doing so, all people will know that we are His disciples!
- I John 4:7-8 tells us that if we don’t love, we don’t know God.
- Colossians 3:12-16 specifically tells us HOW we are to love one another, even mentioning love (vs.14) leading to us being ONE BODY (vs.15). That’s right ... ONE BODY!
- I Corinthians 12:12-26 says that loving each other is our love for Christ and hurting Christians hurts us all! Worst of all, it hurts Jesus Christ.

For a year now Pray PA has promoted the need for PRAYER and UNITY (by showing love, concern, and support) to one another. When we do this, we will have (and continue to have) true REVIVAL! Bishop Cluster declared that this is the year of “A NEW THING!” Jesus declared “A NEW COMMANDMENT” (John 13:34-35) ... TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER as He loved us. We can pray 24-7-365 but if we are not members of THE BODY in action, attitude, speech, and support we are as “sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal” (I Corinthians 13:1-13). Where is revival in that? How can we win the lost to Christ when they cannot recognize Him in us? I submit to us all — have great faith, live your hope in Christ, but most importantly, practice LOVE! Because it truly is the greatest of all!

CONNIE KRAMER / PA District Prayer Coordinator

INCONVENIENCE VS. SACRIFICE

You’ve probably heard the story about the chicken and the pig who wanted to open a restaurant. They were going to feature a daily breakfast; so, the chicken announced, “I will provide the eggs, and you, Pig, can provide the bacon.” That’s a pretty convenient decision for the chicken to make! In Africa, as you can well imagine, convenience is not common, but inconvenience does not necessarily equal sacrifice either. This very thought was hammered home for us as we traveled to the capital city of Malawi, Lilongwe, for Easter. A five hour trip from where we live. As we approached the city, we came across a four-lane highway torn up from construction; it was nothing but complete dirt for miles and miles. On the roads that were paved, we spent our drive swerving back and forth to miss pothole after pothole — they were large enough to swallow your car! After arriving, we went to get a bite to eat ... there were so many roads closed that the GPS could not get us to the restaurant or back to the hotel. We were lost! We didn’t expect this, especially since it’s the



capital city, not some remote village. Needless to say, I was very frustrated, and in that moment I even told Sister Betterley that I didn’t care if we ever came back to Lilongwe again! Eventually, we found our way back to the comfort of our hotel. On Sunday, we went to one of the most remote churches in Malawi and had an incredible Easter Service! The Pastor in that village has started eleven daughter works, four of which are in the neighboring country of Mozambique; his current congregation is three times the size of his building! With the number of people in attendance, we held the service outside, and afterwards, we found out that a group of over 25 people had walked from Mozambique to be in service with us! This was a 14-hour journey on foot! In that moment, I realized *I was the chicken, not the pig!* Driving on terrible roads, swerving to miss potholes, and getting lost in a foreign city — it was all an inconvenience, but inconvenience doesn’t always equal sacrifice. **Do we really know what sacrifice is?**

ROGER & VICKI BETTERLY / PA Missionaries in Malawi



ALLENTOWN

Several years ago, God began speaking to me about church planting. I was burdened by the flyer put out at 2018 Fall PA District Conference — county map of Pennsylvania illustrating the 36 counties without a United Pentecostal Church ... 3,211,151 souls! One of those counties, Lehigh County, always stood out to me. Lehigh County is home to Allentown, the third largest city in PA, and one of the fastest growing. Indeed, Allentown had been on our hearts for many years, always wondering why there was no church, and when *someone* would go.

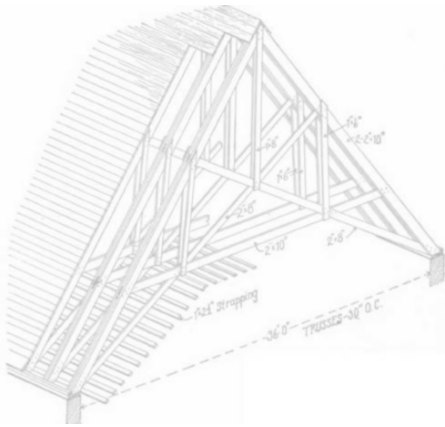
We took this burden with us as God moved us out of PA in the summer of 2019, for a season, to live and minister in New Brunswick, Canada. We didn't know what awaited us; only that we were following the leading of the Holy Ghost. Six months later, COVID ... the world shut down, the border closed. Family and friends couldn't visit. Even neighbors couldn't congregate. There we were, in a new place, knowing precious few people, all alone. Little did we know that this was the hand of God preparing us for the next season of our lives and ministry. It was during this time that we learned to stand together as a family; we learned what it was to live for God even when no one is watching, even when the church building sits empty, dark, and cold, even when it seems like the world is crumbling around you. This season galvanized our dedication, and our resolve to do the work of God, no matter what!

Not quite two years later, God began signaling to us that it was time to move. Our temporary Canadian residency was coming to an end, and God began swinging doors wide open for us to return to the US. As we sought the Lord for our next assignment, He spoke clearly to us, leading us to pursue Allentown. Much prayer went up, phone calls were made, and the PA District Board agreed with us in the Holy Ghost that Allentown was to be where God would have us plant a church. In the summer of 2021, we relocated to Allentown to begin planting Foundation Church. The Lord enabled us to quickly find a home, and we held our first Wednesday night small group there in April 2022. We followed this up with our first Sunday morning service on September 11, 2022 — in our living room. We later moved into a room on the campus of Cedar Crest College in October, and have been having Sunday services there ever since. This space has been such an incredible blessing to us, at a fraction of the cost of any other space rental in the greater Allentown area! Since beginning, we have baptized 11 in Jesus' name, we have seen the Holy Ghost poured out, and God doing a deep work in the many people He has brought to us! We have a thriving Sunday school, now with their own dedicated classrooms on campus. We also currently hold bi-monthly bilingual services (English/Spanish) as this is a huge need in our area. God is on the move here, and continues to do tremendous things! Obviously, we could have never done this on our own. We held monthly "Valley Connect" Community Worship Nights from October 2022 through August 2023, culminating in our SOAR Outreach event in September 2023. At each event, we had worship teams from all over Section 1/PA District come and lend us their musical talent, anointed worship, and manpower; many showed up just to support us, worship, and pray for those in attendance. THANK YOU to all our area Pastors and churches! We continue to press forward in 2024, watching God move in the lives and hearts of Foundation Church.

We still have need of laborers in many areas, but know that God is faithful, and He will provide! Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers, and pray that God would continue to bring revival to Allentown and the Lehigh Valley!



WESLEY & TARA SALISBURY / Foundation Church



BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

During the summer of 2020, while inspecting the church roof for leaks, I discovered significant issues with the ridge board, rafters, and ceiling joists, causing severe bowing. This posed a major safety concern for all occupants. After involving the insurance company, a Structural Engineer assessed this situation, concluding that the entire roof needed replacement or repair. I was confident that the repairs would be covered by the church's insurance policy. Unfortunately, the insurance didn't cover the costs, leaving us facing an unexpected expense of \$150K. Despite

financial strain, and the challenges of a COVID-19 outbreak and declining church membership, we held onto our faith in God's providence. Seeking alternative quotes, the lowest offered was \$130K — beyond our church's means. While contemplating the closure of the physical building, we resolved to keep the spiritual doors open. Additionally, in seeking the Lord regarding the 2022 Christmas for Christ offering, my wife and I felt impressed by the Lord for our church to give \$20K to this offering. With a dwindling congregation of 20-25 members, including children and a deadline of October 31, 2023, to complete the roof repairs, the church gave \$19K to CFC offering. Praise the Lord! In March 2023, a prophetic message of God's abundance blessings at a mentorship conference uplifted my spirit, despite slow progress. In August, unexpectedly, Brother Michael Wright, PA NAM Director, reached out, expressing divine guidance to address our building needs. Through collaborative efforts and adherence to code regulations, the project was miraculously completed on October 27th, at a fraction of the original cost, totaling only **\$600**. To God be the glory!



DONALD SIMMONS / Three Rivers Praise & Worship Center



A NEW THING

PA DISTRICT CAMP 2024 / **JULY 15-19** / ROXBURY HOLINESS CAMP

SCOTT GRAHAM / AARON SOTO / TAYLOR FAIRBANKS / STEPHEN HICKS



God is doing great things in your *PA Children's Ministry Department*.

Recently the *Children's Ministries UPCI* made its way across Pennsylvania with Holy Ghost Rallies. General CM Director, *Steve Cannon* and children's evangelist *Ethan Tucker* began in SECTION #2 at Calvary Tabernacle in Sunbury where **22 received the Holy Ghost!** From there they went to SECTION #1 in Lancaster at the Passionate Church, **26 were filled with the Holy Ghost!** Finishing out in SECTION #3 in Somerset at the House of Prayer where **14 were filled! 3 more** would be filled on Sunday at the River of Life Church in Mon-Valley! On May 3rd and 4th we had our very first Children's Convention with over 125 in attendance and **3 more received the gift of the Holy Ghost!** Over the last few weeks a total of **68 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN HOLY GHOST FILLED!** PRAISE GOD! I AM BELIEVING FOR 100 CHILDREN TO FILLED IN 2024! Your sacrificial giving to *Save Our Children* has helped to make this possible. Thank you for supporting the Children's Ministry! PA ... God is doing a GREAT NEW THING!



MARK SHIFFLETT / PA Children's Ministries Director

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT ... YOU'VE READ IT, NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!