

THE Keystone PA DISTRICT UPCI

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

**“As long as we are content to live without revival, we will — Leonard Ravenhill.
PENNSYLVANIA, WE ARE NOT CONTENT TO LIVE WITHOUT REVIVAL!”**

PA District Superintendent: **REV. MICKEY CLUSTER**

GOSPEL MOTIVATED!

What motivates you?

What consumes your energy, your time ... what “makes you tick?”

For the apostle Paul it was about advancing the Gospel. He cared little about anything else. Note his testimony (Acts 20:24): **“Nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus ...”** He sacrificed everything — his life, possessions, recognition, reputation, and

prestige just **“to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”** In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul wrote, **“I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also”** (Romans 1:15). And in 1 Corinthians 9:16, Paul declares the driving force behind his mission: **“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!”** Paul was dedicated to promoting the gospel; his Gospel-motivated life serves as an example for us. ... WE ARE READY TO PREACH THE WHOLE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE KEYSTONE STATE!

TONY MANSINHO / Keystone Editor

PRAYER CHANGES PEOPLE

I remember as a thirteen-year-old, my pastor, *James W. Pound*, teaching on LOVE! For Christians, this subject is continuously referenced. That evening, however, he made a statement that piqued my interest! He emphasized that we must love difficult individuals —no excuses! And if we have any form of hatred in our hearts for



them, WE DO NOT LOVE GOD! That was a strong statement! But he gave us Scripture to support his remarks (1 John 4:20). He then followed by saying that there were going to be lots of “unlovable” people come into our lives, and we have to love them just as Jesus Christ loves us ... regardless of how they treat us! That struck me as almost impossible! That is until he explained that there was a way that would not only make these folks lovable, but that we would also develop compassion and burdens for them!

I was expecting theological wisdom to be revealed that I had never heard before! You yourself may also be wondering, “What in the world” can cause us to have love, compassion, and a burden for those who are the most unlovable in our lives? Or, how am I supposed to love individuals who live sinful lifestyles complete with all the confusing pronouns used to identify who or what they are! And what about people who choose wicked and uncomfortable practices contrary to everything that I stand for? Am I really supposed to love them? The answer is YES! We must love them! This was only part of the lesson my pastor taught! For the last 55 years since that Thursday night Bible study, there is one thing he told us to do in order to love like Jesus. It is PRAYER! Pray for the people you don’t like! Pray for those whose lifestyle is opposite yours! Pray for those who treat you terribly or “push your buttons!” Pray for anyone you can’t get along with! (Luke 6:28, Matthew 5:44.) At the conclusion, our congregation was challenged to begin incorporating “these people” into our daily prayer.

I can attest that this works!

The “unlovable” people we pray for don’t suddenly change! But you know who does? We do! In prayer we begin to see these people differently. As we pray for them, we begin to love them, to have compassion for them. An understanding emerges of why these people are who they are, which is usually that they desire to be loved! When in prayer, we begin to understand who we really are ... to see in ourselves changes we need to make to be like Jesus and show His love to a hurting, unloved world! When we pray for others, change takes place, our “flesh” is crucified and God’s love increases!

It is said that “Prayer Changes Things,” but truthfully, “PRAYER CHANGES PEOPLE!”

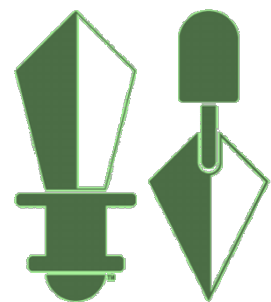
CONNIE KRAMER / PA District Prayer Coordinator

A GREAT WORK

When Nehemiah set out to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, he encountered complications and adversity. His greatest opposition came from two men: Sandballat, a Moabite, and Tobiah, an Ammonite. They were joined by Geshem, the Arabian, and they sought to call Nehemiah away from the work, saying, “**Let us meet together in one of the villages of Ono**” (Nehemiah 6:2). However, Nehemiah perceived that they sought to do him mischief; Oh, no!

Sandballat and Tobiah requested this meeting four times. Each time, Nehemiah responded the same way: “**I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease, whist I leave it, and come down to you**” (Nehemiah 6:3)?

Nehemiah understood what his enemies would later find out — the work that he was doing was the work of the Lord, and nothing would distract him from getting it done.



The wall was finished in an astonishing fifty-two days. Everybody knew that it was a miraculous achievement. In fact, Nehemiah 6:16 states, “**And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they**

perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

To every church planter, pastor, minister, and leader: you are doing a great work! I have said this to many pastors and church planters over the years. It is a great work simply because it is a work that is wrought of our God! It's greatness is not contingent upon the results, seen or unseen. Too many times we become discouraged because of goals we did not achieve, efforts in which we didn't succeed, and numbers we couldn't attain. We all want to see a harvest, but remember, if you are doing the work that God has called you to do, it is a great work because it is the work of the Lord.

Paul encourages us in Galatians 6:9 and in 2 Thessalonians 3:13 to, "**Be not weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.**" Don't be discouraged, don't be weary in well doing, and above all, don't let the devil distract you from the great work that you are doing! Don't be led astray into one of the villages of "Oh, no!" State your resolve like Nehemiah of old: "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease, while I leave it."

Be encouraged, my friends, you are doing a great work! It is a great work because it is the work of the Lord!



PHILLIP ZOOK / Apostolic Faith Church of Chambersburg

UPCOMING EVENTS

**CULTIVATE MUSIC MINISTRY (APRIL 5) ... ESTHER'S CONFERENCE (APRIL 25-26) ...
KEEPERS OF THE FIRE (MAY 2-3) . INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION AT**

<https://padistrictupci.org/upcoming-events-2/>



A TESTIMONY ... JAMEY E. MEYERS

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve! And I rejoice in what the Lord is doing in my life and being a part of what the Lord is doing in this hour .. in Pennsylvania. I have spent 15 years studying and serving under my Pastor and mentor; Roger Betterley* in Williamsport, Pa. He has encouraged me every step of the way focusing on the great revival at hand. Recently at our 2024 Camp Meeting I received the high honor of obtaining a Ministerial Local License. This comes at the age of 63 after battling alcoholism, drug addiction, and many other hardships that kept me from the kingdom of God. I struggled constantly in my life with weighing the difference between success in the world and the kingdom of God. Today I am thankful that the Lord rescued me and allowed me to see through all my achievements as well as my failures to bring me face to face with the most rewarding opportunity that a man who never deserved it could ask for: saving

the lost. **“He who is greatest among you shall be your servant”** (Matthew 23:11). I only pray that I could be as good a servant as I witnessed my Pastor be; all to bring glory to God.

*Brother and Sister Betterley now serve as missionaries to Malawi, Africa.

TRANSITIONS

Raise your hand if you love transitions (or as it could be called, change)! Unfortunately, we all have to endure the challenge of navigating transitions in life whether they be in our family, ministry, or career.

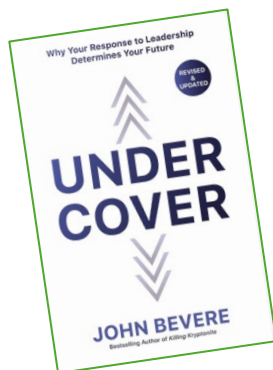
As a minister, and professionally as a recruiter, I spend a fair amount of my time coaching people through all the various life transitions. The best advice I have ever gotten, and what I consider the best advice I can give anyone, is to **DO YOUR BEST TO FACE TRANSITIONS WITHOUT FRUSTRATION**. Changing ministry roles or careers can be prompted by a frustrating circumstance, project, or person, but it is best to determine the transition after having made peace with the whatever the issue is. It is very difficult to find peace with a transition plan when you are overcome with the feelings of frustration. Philippians 4:6-7, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

So, next time you see a transition coming or a transition is thrust upon you due to circumstances, I encourage you to take a step back to seek the peace of God. It is imperative that you ask Him to give you peace regarding your current position and allow Him to direct you through the change with your heart and mind guarded by his presence and favor.

CHAD MIRANDY / House of Prayer

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES' NEW ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 / BRADLEY WEVODAU (Sectional NAM Director); **SECTION 2 / TIM SCHOPPY** (Sectional YOUTH Director); **SECTION 3 / RYAN ZEEK** (Sectional NAM Director), **TONY MANSINHO** (PRESBYTER).



At our recent Sectional Minister's Conference, BRO. CLUSTER recommended the book **“UNDER COVER”** by John Bevere. By teaching us how to properly relate to leadership, Bevere shows why living under authority is better than we think. The truth is, we will all one day have to follow the leader. Whether at school, at work, in the military, or even in the national political arena, the question of who will lead and who will follow is constantly before us. Your response will determine your future. Get your copy at **AMAZON**, **CHRISTIANBOOK**, or **BARNES & NOBLE**.

Thank you for reading. Let's continue in prayer for one another.