

FEBRUARY 2010 MONTHLY REPORT FOR SDMI

“MAKE THE CONNECTION” CONNECTING NAZARENE’S FROM CANADA TO OREGON FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE OCEAN

(REV. WES SMITH, CHAIRMAN)
(REV. LYLE COBLENTZ, EDITOR AND STATISTICIAN)

WES’ WISDOM

One of the wisest things I ever heard a church leader say was when Dr. Charles Strickland declared, “There are two things God hates. One is sin. The other is smallness.” That was easily thirty years ago. Dr. Strickland was a guest speaker on our Sacramento District and I was in my “pastoral infancy!” Being from Iowa, I had heard the first declaration many, many times. We were big into God hating sin back in Iowa! But to my recollection, I couldn’t connect with the other truth, “*God hates...smallness.*” On the contrary, I had heard over and over that growth, and large-ness, was most generally connected with compromise and watering down the truth. We were pretty much in sync with, “God hates sin and loves smallness!”

I would add one “S” to the good General’s message...**sameness**. This’ll preach, folks. God hates sin. God hates smallness. And, God hates sameness. There is hardly anything in the entirety of his creation that stays the same. (Truth is the one exception I know of.) It is impossible to look at the same sky, forest, snowflake, bird, person twice. Did you know that? One of the old philosophers (Heraclitus) stated that, “The only thing that is constant is change.” Got your seatbelt fastened? Heraclitus was long gone before the Church of the Nazarene came into existence. Ha!

Here’s the deal. While change is one of the most difficult of all principles to embrace, it is operative whether we embrace it or not. You have people in your church, most likely, who are dead set against change, but they warmed their coffee in a microwave this morning and paid their bill at the restaurant this evening by using their *iphone*. If I live until retirement, I will not understand the church’s embrace of what God hates...sameness. Smiling. Kind of.

Every breakthrough in history has been at the exact intersection of something different and someone willing to give it a try. My personal impression is that something monumental is going on in Christianity right now. I couldn’t be more serious. Some Christians remind me of the folks wearing leisure suits with their hair in the ducktail style, absolutely convinced that if they stay with it long enough, the styles will return. Here’s some good advice learned from years of leaning forward. If your church is high centered or declining, run, don’t walk, to where God is blessing a ministry. Take your time. Look. Listen. The same God who is blessing that ministry longs to do the same with you and yours. It will take some time and it comes often with a pretty high price tag. These are unusual days. If there was ever a time to pay attention to the three “S’s,” this is it!

Chairman Wes Smith.

News for the Month of January

Welcome new church Korean First Wisdom Church of the Nazarene: Received the following email from DS Hugh Smith: 'Yesterday I was in Spanaway to do multiple things: Along with Stephen Lee (Denominational Korean Ministries Director) receive a pastor and congregation into the Church of the Nazarene and organize the newest Church in WAPAC. I received into membership, Pastor Sun Cantrell and 15 others and organized the Korean First Wisdom Church of the Nazarene, with 18 Charter members.

Address: First Wisdom Church, 18407 Pacific Avenue South #21, Spanaway, WA 98387 (253-846-7140). It was a significant service. Pastor Sun Cantrell started the Church in her home several years ago, recently rented the facility on Pacific Avenue and today Sun is a Nazarene Pastor of a Church of the Nazarene. Sun attended General Assembly and the National Korean Pastors' Conference in Orlando in June 2009 – to find out more about Nazarenes. Feeling she has found a 'home' – the events of Sunday February 28, 2010 unfolded. PTL for His leadership."

Amboy: Started a Wed night study of the book of Revelation and the response has been tremendous among the adults. Our group has grown from 6 to 15. The Kidz Club continues to do well and our food bank has been serving the local community. One new family has just joined us.

Peninsula: We had a dear lady that attended our church pass away. Her name was Kay Waltemate. She was the peninsula's evangelist. Even though she couldn't walk that well. She had a scooter that she road all over the place. No place was safe from her (LOL). She even road into the arcades and talked to the kids there. No matter where she went she always talked to people about Jesus. Even when she finally had to go to a care facility, she was still preaching about Jesus and drawing people to Him up to the day to went home to be this Him. We held a memorial for her and about 50 people attended. We had cake, goodies and coffee after words. We will miss her. She was a much loved little lady. We know she is in a much better place and she has a new body.

Gold Creek: Construction for our new building is underway. The community is coming to coming to see what's going on here at Gold Creek.

Yelm: We had a good time Sunday when we raised over \$500.00 for Alabaster and Haiti earthquake relief.

Pt. Orchard: One of our 9 year old children fell 15 feet from a tree and suffered a severe head injury. People went to prayer and God intervened and she was out of the hospital in 4 days and well on her way to a complete and full recovery with no after effects!! Our God is a healing God!!!

Camas: February was another terrific month, with continued growth, especially in our Wednesday evening classes and Celebrate Recovery. Our elementary class has grown to the point that we have had to split them into two clases beginning in March - Praise the Lord! Fourteen people were accepted as new members of our church in February, several of whom came out of our Celebrate Recovery ministry. We had more than 100 people at our monthly Gospel Jubilee, with 16 of our kids singing in the 'His Kids' chorus. There were some great times of fellowship this month, with a fun Super Bowl party and a wonderful Primetimer's Valentine Dinner. Our Girlfriends Forever (the name of our Women's Ministry) had several events that were well attended. We closed the month with a Spaghetti fundraiser by our teens that will enable them to attend Acquire the Fire later this year. God continues to bless us with so many ministry opportunities and the people to take up the challenge. We look forward to what the new year ahead has in store.

Longview: We started Celebrate Recovery last evening. Got off to a great start. So proud of approximately 30 people from our church who have gotten involved in this ministry!

Vancouver Fourth Plain: This has been a full month with numerous activities throughout the month. Perhaps the highlight was our annual Valentines Dinner with over 160 crammed into Franklin Hall. We desperately need more space. We ended our church year with terrific final numbers. Giving was up 45%, SDMI attendance was up 64% Morning worship was up 32% and we welcomed 33 new Nazarenes this year.

MARCH REPORTS DUE MAR. 29

Please have your next report in by **MAR 29**. Please report the number of people on your Responsibility List, the total average in SDMI (Sunday School and Discipleship classes) and your average in the morning worship services and of course all the exciting news you have. You can report by email: lowlyle2@aol.com; Fax 360-213-0608 (This is a new fax number); or phone 360-892-4462. "Just do it!" Thanks we do appreciate all you do. Your report is as important as anyone else's and together we all win.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE:

Our annual reports will be due the first week of March as well your monthly report. All I need is your SDMI average. Remember this if you had any combined services please include them in the annual report. If you were not able to have services due to weather please do not include those weeks. You have permission, as we have done in the past, to drop your two lowest weeks so you will be dividing by 51 weeks not 53. Did you notice we had 53 weeks this year. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 360-892-4462, Thanks for your help.

Here is February Top Ten:

YOUR TOP TEN

SDMI (Sunday School)

1. Gold Creek	2229
2. Olympia	641
3. Van. Real Life	369
4. Sea.Aurora	331
5. Camas	227
6. Liberty Bible	189
7. Auburn	182
8. Kent	175
9. Oak Harbor	170
10. Centralia	165

AM WORSHIP

1. Gold Creek	2229
2. Olympia	632
3. Kent	440
4. Marysville	426
5. Liberty Bible	421
6. Sea. Aurora	419
7. Centralia	308
8. Ridgefield	297
9. Van Real Life	247
10. Van Fourth Plain	233

Percentage gain over LYA (SDMI)

1. Kirkland Chinese	192%
2. Stevenson	131%
3. Lynden	89%
4. Carson	56%
5. Van. Fourth Plain	51%
6. Pleasant View	47%
7. Van. Safe Harbor	45%
8. Sea West	42%
9. Van Real Life	29%
Lk Como Saeta En La	29%

NUMERICAL GAIN

1. Gold Creek	426
2. Van Real Life	82
3. Van Fourth Plain	55
4. Lynden	32
5. Van. Safe Harbor	29
6. Kirkland Chinese	23
7. Stevenson	21
8. Carson	19
9. Pleasant View	18
10. Renton	12

WHY TWO COPIES?

One copy is for the pastor and the other is for the SDMI Chairperson or his/her equivalent.

So be sure to share the information.