

KENTUCKY WESLEYAN MESSENGER

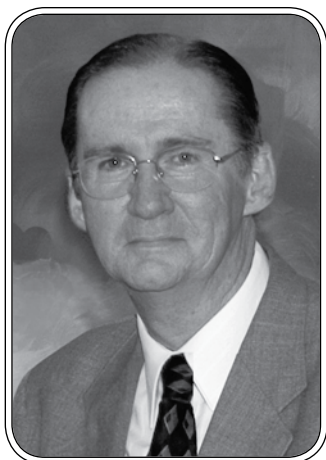
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THE
WESLEYAN
CHURCH



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY DISTRICT

MARCH-MAY 2008



A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

OUR MERCIFUL FATHER, MAY THY CHURCH BE STRIPPED OF ALL THAT WEAKENS AND CLOTHED WITH ALL THAT STRENGTHENS. CLEANSE US FROM A WORLDLY MIND – A MIND THAT REACHES EAGERLY FOR THE THINGS THAT PERISH AND DISCERNS BUT DIMLY THE VALUES THAT ARE DEATHLESS. PURGE FROM OUR SOULS THE PETTINESS THAT QUARRELS OVER TRIFLES, THE PRIDE THAT MAKES AN IDOL OUT OF TITLES AND OFFICES, THE NARROWNESS THAT HAS NO UNDERSTANDING EYE FOR CHURCHES AND NATIONS AND RACES OTHER THAN OUR OWN. DRIVE FROM OUR HEARTS THE COMPLACENCY, THE PRAYERLESSNESS, THE HEEDLESSNESS THAT FORM ALWAYS SO DEADLY A DRAG ON OUR DISCIPLINSHIP AND WITNESS.

WE ASK, AMID THE DIFFICULTIES AND VEXATIONS OF THESE TIMES, FOR A HOLY AND HEARTENING REMEMBRANCE OF THE PIONEERS WHO HAVE BLAZED THE LONG TRAILS BY WHICH THE GOSPEL HAS BEEN CARRIED TO STRANGE LANDS AND DISTANT PEOPLES. MAY THE MANTLE OF THEIR DAUNTLESS COURAGE AND THEIR PASSIONATE LOVE FOR THE SOULS OF MEN FALL UPON US.

REVIVE THY CHURCH EVERYWHERE. GIVE REALITY TO OUR WORSHIP. GRANT SOUNDNESS TO OUR TEACHING. KINDLE BROTHERLY LOVE INTO A GLOWING ARDOR. TURN OUR FORMAL ATTACHMENTS INTO FIERY COMMITMENTS. PUSH BACK OUR HORIZONS AND BESTOW UPON US THE TRULY SEEING EYE. MAY WE BE BAPTIZED BY THY HOLY SPIRIT INTO FEELING A ONENESS WITH ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN. AND THUS MAY WE ENTER INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH THEE IN MAKING KNOWN TO ALL MEN IN ALL PLACES THE MESSAGE AND POWER OF THY SAVING MERCY. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

BY PAUL S. REES



Statement of Mission

The mission of the Kentucky District is to equip and empower our churches to fulfill the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

WESLEYAN KIDS CAMP - JULY 7-11

Mountain Climbing

Several years ago I visited Papua New Guinea. I traveled with missionary Bill Benner, on trail motorcycles, to various villages in the mountains. We left early one morning just as the weather cleared. Our route took us a short distance on the



Highland "Highway," a serpentine partially paved road, to the trail that provided access to the connecting dirt roads high on the mountain ridges. Bill stopped at the base of what appeared to be little more than a foot path, and announced, "This is where we go up." The deeply rutted trail, still muddy from the daily rains in the Highlands, seemed to go straight up and then disappear into the clouds.

I wasn't a complete novice when it came to trail bikes. I had owned and ridden a Honda 175cc and had taken on some pretty challenging strip mine pits in southern Indiana, but nothing even remotely resembling the challenge before me. I was incredulous. "There's no way we can climb that mountain, Bill," I retorted. He gave me a look that was a blend of sympathy and scolding, sort of like when you tell a frightened child that he can ride a bicycle, so stop the whining and get on with it. While I stood paralyzed and staring in disbelief, Bill offered this assurance: "We do this all the time; even Ruth climbs this mountain on her 90cc bike." (Ruth Tipton was a single, middle-aged lady who served as a translator. An incredibly gifted lady, her missionary service was transposing one of the unwritten languages into the Gospels.) That did it! I knew at that point I would climb that mountain even if it meant I would die in the attempt. I even fantasized about how the newspaper headlines might read the next day: "Courageous visiting pastor dies in a daring 'ruthless' assault on a killer mountain."

All humor aside, I learned some important lessons about mountain climbing

that day when it comes to life challenges. The first lesson: we can't go to the next level of our ministry or personal development without negotiating a steep grade. If it were easy, everybody would do it. No earthly or eternal good ever seems to come of challenges we calculate possible.

Secondly, competing against others is always more about vanity than virtue. The real competition in life isn't about besting others but competing against ourselves in becoming the best person God intended us to be. I doubt we can expect much help from God in "besting" others. Our greatest empowerment seems always to come when Christ is our focus and personal transformation is our motivation.

Thirdly, we can't go to higher levels of personal excellence or ministerial effectiveness without the help of others. It's that humility thing again. Here's the kicker. Humility isn't possible without humiliation. It's humiliating to confess failure, ask for help, admit ignorance, accept coaching from unlikely sources, or to simply say, "I don't know how to do this; would you help me?" It is certain, however, that whatever form humility takes, it is an essential mind set for climbing mountains. We can't get there without it.

Laying aside my pride, and dismissing images of Ruth climbing the mountain, I said to Bill, "How do you do this?" "It's easy," he said, with a genuine tone of helpfulness. "You fold up the foot rests, leave the bike in the lowest gear, maintain slow but constant speed, put your legs and feet out to the side like outriggers on a boat, and 'walk' it up the mountain." I climbed the mountain. Even Ruth said she was proud of me.

In each issue, we print the record of how each church is doing. Could I encourage you to get out of the business of competing with others?

Printing statistics isn't intended to incite efforts toward "one upmanship". They are impartial reminders of where we are. But if it is a higher level we desire to ascend, the issue isn't about where others are but where God wants to take us personally. The question that has to be

answered, however, is "Do we want to be in an ascending mode? Are we ready to climb the summit that leads to greater personal development and ministry proficiency?" There is no merit in striving to simply be better than others. There is no self betterment, however, without climbing our own mountain.

Dr. Aron P. Willis
District Superintendent
Indiana North District

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Official Publication of the
Kentucky District
The Wesleyan Church

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PUBLISHED bi-monthly by the
Kentucky District of
The Wesleyan Church, Inc.

ALL ITEMS to be printed in the
Kentucky Wesleyan Messenger
should be in the district office by the
10th of the month prior for intended
publication.

FIRST CLASS postage paid at
Shoals, IN, 47581

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE - \$4.50
per copy per year, in bundles to
churches; single copy, \$5.00 per year.
For change of address contact the
District Office.

Printed by Country Pines, Inc.,
Shoals, IN.

If I Were Starting My Family Again

by John Drescher

1. I WOULD LOVE MY WIFE MORE.

In the closeness of family life it is easy to take each other for granted and let a dullness creep in that can dampen even the deepest love. So, I would love the mother of my children more and be freer in letting them see that love.

2. I WOULD DEVELOP FEELINGS OF BELONGING.

If children do not feel that they belong in the family, they will soon find their primary group elsewhere. I would use meal times more to share happenings of the day instead of hurrying through them. I'd find more time for games or projects which all could join.

3. I WOULD LAUGH MORE WITH MY CHILDREN.

The best way to make children good is to make them happy. I see now that I was, many times, far too serious. I must always be careful that I do not communicate that being a parent is a constant problem.

4. I WOULD BE A BETTER LISTENER.

I believe that there is a vital link between listening to children's concerns when they are young and the extent to which they will share their concerns with their parents when they are older.

5. I WOULD DO MORE ENCOURAGING.

There is probably nothing that stimulates children to love life and seek accomplishment more than sincere praise when they have done well.

6. I WOULD TRY TO SHARE GOD MORE INTIMATELY.

We are not whole persons when we stress only the physical, social and intellectual aspects of life. We are spiritual beings, and if the world is to know God and His will, parents must be the primary conveyers. For my part, I would strive to share my faith with my children, using informal settings and unplanned happenings as occasions to speak of my relationship with God.

- taken from the Lexington First Wesleyan Church Bulletin, May 21, 2006

2008/2009 Kentucky District Ministry Events

BEST YEARS FELLOWSHIP RETREAT September 3-6, 2008
Kentucky District Campground • Maysville, KY
Special Speaker – Rev. Wayne Mahoney

MINISTRY ENRICHMENT RETREAT September 29-October 1, 2008
Lake Cumberland State Park • Jamestown, KY
Guest Speaker – Dr. Jerry G. Pence

DISTRICT WESLEYAN WOMEN CONVENTION/RETREAT June 11-12, 2009
Asbury Theological Seminary • Wilmore, KY
Speakers – Dr. JoAnn Lyon and David & Shirley Duncan

DISTRICT CONFERENCE June 26, 2009
Asbury Theological Seminary • McKenna Chapel • Wilmore, KY

DISTRICT WESLEYAN KID'S CAMP July 6-10, 2009
Kentucky District Campground • Maysville, KY

DISTRICT WESLEYAN YOUTH CAMP July 28-August 1, 2009
Kentucky District Campground • Maysville, KY

DISTRICT FAMILY CAMP MEETING July 27-August 2, 2009
Kentucky District Campground • Maysville, KY

EVANGELISTS

Dr. Nelson Perdue and Dr. Earle L. Wilson

SINGERS

To Be Announced

BEST YEARS FELLOWSHIP RETREAT September 9-12, 2009
Kentucky District Campground • Maysville, KY
Special Speaker – Rev. Gary Campbell

MINISTRY ENRICHMENT RETREAT September 28-30, 2009
Lake Cumberland State Park • Jamestown, KY
Guest Speaker – Rev. Mark O. Wilson

KENTUCKY DISTRICT ATTENDANCE REPORT

JANUARY 2008								FEBRUARY 2008					
Church	Pastor	SS	AM	PM	MW	WK	WY	SS	AM	PM	MW	WK	WY
Ashland Heights	Gordon L. Tilley	47	52	32	27	10	0	60	52	29	24	12	0
Ashland Westwood	Phil Zimmerman	31	39	19	16	8	0	32	49	22	13	6	0
Carrollton	Johnny Haynes	62	77	53	38	18	0	55	69	48	39	17	0
Cloverport	Larry H. Eaton	19	33	22	10	0	0	19	38	23	9	0	0
Concord	Todd Winchester	16	19	0	0	0	0			No Report			
Covington	F. Keith Biddle	14	20	9	7	0	0	12	25	9	3	0	0
Eastview	In DBA Hands			No Report						No Report			
E-Town Trinity	Dana B. Beland			No Report				62	71	30	50	26	12
Falmouth	Robert D. Underwood	18	30	16	15	0	0	19	32	18	16	0	0
Florence	Timothy W. Helton	N		No Report						No Report			
Frankfort	In DBA Hands	6	9	11	4	0	0	5	7	5	5	0	0
Garvin Ridge	J.C. Bond	55	65	28	25	0	0	51	62	28	25	0	0
Georgetown	Barclay T. Brown	28	50	0	10	0	7	25	42	0	10	0	7
Glasgow	Kevin D. Mouser	45	78	26	19	26	0	42	76	20	17	26	0
Greenup	Kirtley Sipple	7	0	9	8	0	0	9	0	12	0	0	0
Hitchins	George T. Smith	40	38	21	11	8	2	41	37	19	7	0	0
Junction City	Bobby Tolson	20	28	8	6	0	0	24	30	7	5	0	0
Kingswood	David C. Little			No Report						No Report			
Lexington First	Steve Sandefur	21	38	9	8	16	4	17	41	8	8	16	4
Lexington Stonewall	Chip Monck	46	58	0	0	0	0	40	55	0	0	0	0
Livermore	Amos Glendenning	15	18	0	0	6	0	15	19	0	0	6	0
Louisville Atwood	Milton Lightbourne	12	25	12	8	0	0	12	26	10	8	0	0
Louisville Camp Taylor	Chris Kendall	7	7	0	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0
Louisville Wellman	W. Scott Lockard	29	35	21	17	0	0	29	44	22	13	0	0
Maysville	James W. Fleming, Jr.	10	12	7	0	0	0	10	14	9	11	0	0
McAndrews	Ralph L. Ferree	11	14	10	9	0	0	14	18	11	8	0	0
Milton	Ben C. Colburn	27	27	24	13	0	0	26	28	21	13	0	0
Mount Tabor	Orville J. Mann, Jr.	20	27	23	22	0	0	20	25	22	23	0	0
Olive Hill	Allen Wells	51	44	32	28	0	0	56	40	31	17	0	0
Owensboro Calvary	In DBA Hands	41	55	25	12	6	15	39	48	19	12	5	10
Owensboro Southside	John E. Fowler	58	139	43	16	12	31	61	127	43	10	8	29
Paris	Bob Dickerson			No Report						No Report			
Pikeville	Nathan R. McBeth	15	31	12	16	1	0			No Report			
Pleasureville	Wendell Brooks	13	16	9	0	0	0	14	18	9	0	0	0
Richmond Grace	Tommy Masters	69	79	56	41	0	0	65	81	50	29	0	0
Salem Ridge	Robert L. Welker	13	13	8	0	0	0			No Report			
Shelbyville	Randy Bishop	28	38	22	29	5	3	29	43	19	16	8	0
Shepherdsville	Wayne Maze	10	13	10	11	0	0	10	12	10	9	0	0
Soldier	Kenny Hamilton	26	28	20	7	0	0	24	26	18	8	0	0
Somerset	Franklin Durham	23	40	23	27	0	0	20	36	26	27	0	0
Trace	Walter L. Wilcox	26	26	20	17	0	6	22	22	21	16	0	5
Willard	David E. Wilcox	42	30	19	16	0	11	44	30	22	16	0	133
Winchester	Ronn F. Pelfrey			No Report						No Report			

TOP NUMERICAL GAINS
January 2008

CHURCH	SS
Richmond Grace	+24
Lexington Stonewall	+14
Cloverport	+7
Glasgow	+7
Lexington First	+7

TOP NUMERICAL GAINS
January 2008

CHURCH	AM
Owensboro Southside	+34
Carrollton	+16
Richmond Grace	+12
Lexington First	+9
Cloverport	+8

TOP NUMERICAL GAINS
February 2008

CHURCH	SS
Richmond Grace	+18
Owensboro Southside	+17
Ashland Heights	+9
Ashland Westwood	+7

TOP NUMERICAL GAINS
February 2008

CHURCH	AM
Owensboro Southside	+34
Richmond Grace	+23
Ashland Westwood	+17
Glasgow	+16
Cloverport	+13