

A Fellowship and Community of churches demonstrating the love of God through the proclamation of the gospel and the development of disciples

General Overseer Update:

**March 2021
Edition**

“So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.” Rev. 3:16

I’d like to begin my article today by asking a question, “What do you believe John is referring to here when he speaks of being lukewarm?” Is it merely speaking of someone who is indecisive or indifferent? Or could there be something more here that we have overlooked?

Now the reason I’m asking this question is because of a principle I learned years ago for interpreting scripture. It’s initially found in Deut. 19:15 but it’s also what Paul refers to in 2Cor. 13:1, “In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” Simply put, that means that scripture must interpret scripture. And why do I say this? It’s because God is never without a witness. This is actually the premise that He himself operates under. That means that if you have discovered a real truth of scripture, it can and will be validated by other scripture.

For example, I’m sure you remember the story found in Acts 26 where Paul is now given the chance to defend himself to king Agrippa. In fact, Paul is excited to share with Agrippa because he knows the king is well versed in the customs and questions of the Jews. Finally, upon finishing his case, Paul asks Agrippa the million dollar question, “Believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.”

And what is Agrippa’s reply, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

“Almost” that can’t be good. “Almost” is right dead smack in between “cold and hot.” It’s the very essence of being lukewarm. Yet how does Paul respond to Agrippa’s answer. Does he warn him that he’s on dangerous ground or that he’s at the verge of being spewed out of God’s mouth? Not at all. He says, “I would that not only you, but all that hear me this day would be almost persuaded.” And why does he say this? It’s because as scripture teaches, “One plants, one waters, but God gives the increase.” In other words, by being “almost persuaded” Agrippa is on the road to salvation.

On the other hand, the church of Laodicea sat between two notable cities. The first was Colossae which was nestled in a valley between towering mountains and which was watered by icy streams flowing from those peaks; the second was Heiropolis which was known for it’s hot mineral springs. But the waters of Laodicea offered neither. It’s waters were lukewarm, an analogy of Laodicea. In other words, the church of Laodicea was giving neither refreshment or healing to those who were spiritually parched or ill. In that regards, their Christianity was worthless. Furthermore, when you combine this truth to the truth of Matt. 5:13 about the “salt losing it’s saltiness and being good for nothing but to be cast out”,

we discover the true meaning behind the word lukewarm.

In closing, I would again like to ask you a question. What type of water are you offering your world? Is it the life giving water that brings refreshing and healing, or is it the lukewarm waters of complacency?

District Updates:

All Districts

* **Eastern** - Churches remain open with restrictions, 1st District Council had 20 participants, Dan Bavaro home after 5 weeks in hospital for Covid

* **Great Lakes** - All credential holders recommit to their credentials

* **New England** - District meetings and presbytery continue to meet via Zoom, two new applicants interviewed for credentials

* **Ni-Mo** - District Council scheduled for April 30th & May 1st, Niagara Falls church still needing pastor

* **Northwestern** - Powerful and timely credential retreat had 29 in attendance. Phil Cappuccio was guest speaker.

* **Southern** - Monthly prayer meetings continue, possible church plant being discussed, Carmine DiBiase / Sergio & Maria Rodriquez recovering from Covid

Prayer Requests:

Continued prayer for our world

Continued prayer for our nation

Continued prayer for Bro. Dale Russo

Continued prayer for those inflicted by Covid; Bro. Dan Bavaro, Bro. Carmine DiBiase, Bro. Sergio & Sis. Maria Rodriquez

Prayer for the restrictions to be removed and for our upcoming coming convention in Syracuse.

World Missions:

Missions and missionaries continue to function per Covid restrictions

Bro. Dale Russo is progressing well after his brain bleed with the expectation of being back in his pulpit Easter Sunday