Demolition of “Do” and Renewal of “Be”
David B. Linn, Superintendent

I don’t know about you, but almost everything I try to do lately gets delayed, changed, limited, or canceled. I do not for a moment discount the idea that the Lord is right in the middle of these interruptions and denials. I am reminded of how King David’s plans to do something for the Lord got brought up short: “And it came about, when David dwelt in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, ‘Behold, I am dwelling in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under curtains.’ Then Nathan said to David, ‘Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.’ It came about the same night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, ‘Go and tell David My servant, “Thus says the LORD, “You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in…”’” (1 Chronicles 17:1-4 NAU).

David seems to have been thinking: This is how I do things which advance God’s kingdom. Nathan seems to have been thinking the same thing. I know that I think this way all the time, and certainly our Christian culture encourages it. In fact, all Western culture pushes us to invest our hearts in the idea that our identity and value as persons is defined by what we are doing.

And then the pandemic comes along with its difficult restrictions on what we can do. How can we succeed in advancing the kingdom if the pattern upon which we rely has been shattered? In this shattering of our “do” impulse, I see the hand of the Lord and hear his voice: “You shall not build…” – whatever you were thinking.

Why would he say and do that to us? To get us to renew our identity in him as the source of our adequacy and our future, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

“…For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; /AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, /AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE… /And I will be a father to you, /And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ /Says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:16, 18).

What peace, restoration, and hope there is in this demolition of “do” and renewal of “be!” We can just stop. We can “Be still.” Striving to succeed, win, and advance can cease. And in the quiet of knowing that he is God and we are his children, joy can arise afresh. This is my heartfelt prayer for every one of us.

And then we go right back to fighting to conduct our ministries through all the new technologies, means, and structural changes. But now we do all of those things from a renewed sense that being the sons and daughters of God is enough. Dayenu. Est ist genug. C’est bon. Tetelestai. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Lord Jesus.
Attention Clergy

Philip Graham, dba Pinpoint Tax Services, offers professional tax preparation services at very reasonable rates. Phil has 13 years experience and has achieved the IRS Registered Tax Return Preparer (RTRP) Status. He has served hundreds of tax clients across the USA and annually, he completes at least 32 hours of Continuing Education in tax law. He provides caring, confidential and competent tax preparation services, particularly focusing on the complexities of tax returns for licensed clergy including overseas workers.

Contact Phil at 315-491-0462 or pgraham10@outlook.com.
Christian Based Counseling Services

Mr. James F. Lewis, LMHC
2700 Bellevue Ave., Syracuse, NY 13219
315-425-1943

Christian counseling for Individuals (Adult & Adolescent), Marriage & Family, Mental Health & Addictions. Jim is a recognized Christian worker with the C&MA.

Worker’s Emergency Fund

The Northeastern District has received $295 in donations toward the WEF.

Donations are accepted through online giving, or by check payable to Northeastern District C&MA.

ALLIANCE BENEFITS

REMINDER: All NED Official Workers are eligible to participate in the Alliance Health Plan.

www.alliancebenefits.org
1-800-700-2651
option 1 for Healthcare
option 2 for 403(b) Plan

Directory Updates:

Rev. Mark Perkins
6102 Lindbergh Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Tracy Creek Memorial Church (Vestal, NY)
tcmcvestal.com
Rev. Kevin Robbins
kevinrobbins1957@gmail.com

STM Scholarship

(Short Term Missions Scholarship)

The District Missions Committee is offering four $250 scholarships to anyone 13 years or older interested in doing a short-term missions trip to an international C&MA field or with a C&MA International Worker. This is a first come first serve opportunity! If you are interested contact Terri Groh at terrigroh@yahoo.com or 315-806-7011.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:13)
So… Where Are You From?

Relational skills don’t come easy for everyone. It is a learned trait, but it can be amplified or hindered by our personalities. I should know because two of my seven children are introverts and they have loved remote learning. As my son was graduating in 2020, his only social media statement was “I am living the introvert dream thanks to COVID-19!” Even though many of his classmates were at graduation, he was not because he was given the choice to do it from home watching on a tv screen. Even introverts can learn and develop relational skills, it is as easy as asking people where they are from. Have you ever been alone on a plane flight or a bus ride? You are forced to bump elbows with the person next to you and it is natural to introduce yourself. The first question that comes to most people’s minds is “Where are you from”? In helping people learn to share their faith, it is important to teach them the relational skills they need to get started. The first need in evangelism is to let people know you care about who they are.

The acronym F.R.O.M gives you a reminder of questions to ask to help people know you care. It stands for Family, Recreation, Occupation, and Memories.

Everyone has family. Some families are great, and some are dysfunctional. Some have adopted families, but we love to talk about those we love and who love us. Asking the simple questions like “Are you married?” or “Do you have children?” can comfortably start a conversation. People like to talk about their families.

Recreation is a part of everyone’s life. Even my introvert son will open up and talk my ear off if I ask him to tell me about his favorite computer game or his thoughts on the soccer game he just played. People have hobbies and recreational past-times. People love to talk about what they enjoy doing. Recently, my wife and I were on a date and I noticed that my waiter was wearing a Bills hat on the night of a big game. I asked if he heard the score because I wanted to give him an update. He really appreciated the information about the score, and it opened him up for further conversation as the night went on.

People also like to be asked what they do for a living. They take pride in their work. A stay-at-home mom likes to be appreciated for how her home functions and is running. Her home is an extension of who she is. People’s occupations are extensions of who they are. They all want to be apart of something bigger than themselves. When they take pride in what they do, it makes their company greater and gives them purpose. Asking them to share about their work is a way of showing them you care about who they are and what gives them purpose.

And finally, asking people about their favorite memories is a great way to show people that you care about who they are. If a holiday is closing in, you can ask them what their favorite Christmas or Easter memory is. In response, you can share a memory that that holiday which expresses the gospel of Jesus Christ to them.
So why is it important to be relational? People do not care to know what you know until they know you care about who they are. Jesus taught us to love one another. Caring about who people are is showing them love. John 8:34-35 reminds us “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” It should be part of every Christian’s character to want to know people, and show them what love looks like. Unsaved souls will respond to the message of Jesus Christ when they see that His disciples are like Him and they show them love. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 that “You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” Christ chose us to reveal his love to the unsaved world.

So—it’s time for us to start asking people, “Where are you from?”

Rev. Wayne Mushett
Pastor, New Life Bible Church
Rochester, NY
waymus777@yahoo.com

Zoom Huddle for Pastors and Outreach Leaders!!

There will be a zoom huddle for pastors and outreach leaders on February 27th, 2021 from 10 to 11:30am. We know that outreach is a huge task that requires team support as well as new strategies for these changing times. We want to bring outreach leaders together to exchange resources, learn from each other, and to introduce new tools and strategies for COVID era outreach, both on the personal and church-wide level. We hope that you will attend or will identify a few trusted leaders within your congregation that can attend on your behalf. You don’t want to miss out. This is a great opportunity to help your team feel supported, encouraged, and equipped. To sign up or for more information contact Bonnie Koonsman at bbjergable@gmail.com or call (215) 518-2508.

- Social media strategies – Advertising techniques – Creative ways of reaching people during the pandemic - Tools for assessing community needs – Cost effective resources -

Share Jesus
The Harvest Is Plentiful
While living in West Africa, I encountered many heart wrenching things. Little girls who don't have the opportunity to go to school because they are sold into slavery. Children who desire to escape poverty but whose schools are on strike half the year. Children dying of diseases that would be easily treatable in the States. Emaciated Garibou boys who roam the streets, begging in order to earn $2 a day, only to hand it over to their Muslim teachers in order avoid being beaten.

I can recall on one occasion, driving back from bringing my daughter to preschool, seeing a man looking through a pile of garbage by the side of the street, wondering to myself what hope he has. A few minutes later I was almost at the big gate of my destination when I saw a group of Garibou boys. They were very thin and looked to be around the age of my first daughter. My daughter ate a good breakfast that morning. I gave some crackers and peanuts to these little homeless boys with tears filling my eyes. Maybe that will be their only food for the day, or two.

However, after encountering these heart wrenching things day after day it is easy to turn off our hearts to the cries for help from so many individuals and think “that’s not a part of my ministry.” How did Jesus have compassion on the crowds? Matthew 9: 36 says, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

There are so many people with so many needs. Beautiful people that God has masterfully created. Jesus’ compassion was self-less and generous. It is a compassion that can only come from our Heavenly Father, one that causes us to turn everything over to him (our lives, our wills, our time). He then guides us to pour His love into individuals.

As an IW it can be quite overwhelming thinking of all of these needs and how we can have an impact. We have come to realize that we play only a tiny part. Its only through Jesus that our work can have any lasting impact. We can merely plant or water seeds, but it is God that allows them to grow. The needs may seem infinitely greater than our ability to meet them, but maybe that’s a good thing. Maybe it means that the best thing we can do is humble ourselves and pray, realizing that our works do very little unless God shows up. For this reason we as IW’s covet the prayers of our sending and district churches. I would even dare to say that a praying church is much more important than a giving church, although I also believe a truly praying church is one that will be led by the Holy Spirit to give.

There are many ways to stay abreast of how to pray. You can ask your congregants to sign up for bi-weekly emails of prayer requests by region from the Alliance National Office at http://cmalliance.org/pray. Encourage members to sign up for personal email updates of those your church supports, or to personally text them on a messaging service like Signal. What’s most important to pray is that God would move and that people will find eternal hope through Jesus’ blood. Your prayer is a vital link for showing the compassion of God to a hurting world.

- Chelsea
For many years, the District Missions Committee has offered four $250 scholarships to teenagers and college students, ages 13 years and older who are interested in doing a short-term mission’s trip. The deadline to apply for this was always the end of January.

The DMC has had many discussions about how we can tweak things to encourage more interest in Alliance Missions throughout our churches.

One way is to extend the age of the applicants, so we are pleased to announce that we will be offering awards to anyone **13 years of age or older**.

The other change is there will be no deadline! This is now a first come, first serve opportunity and will be available at any point throughout the calendar year until the money's gone.

To receive the scholarship, the trip must be to an international C&MA field or with a C&MA International Worker. So please encourage teens, as well as men and women in your churches to take advantage of this opportunity!

If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact me at terrigroh@yahoo.com for an application form, a pastoral reference, and a list of procedures to apply.

Please note that after each award winner returns from the mission’s trip, they will be sent a follow-up questionnaire. It is important that they complete the entire process.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to award someone with the opportunity to go to an Alliance international field and see the work firsthand!

- Terri Groh, NED Alliance Women’s Director
Let me start off by saying how excited and honored I am to be appointed and serving in the role of Director of Ministry to Men for the Northeastern District.

Let me introduce myself. I am Rev. Mark Perkins and I currently am serving as the Pastor of Discipleship and Small Groups at Niagara Alliance Church in Wheatfield, NY. While I am new to the Alliance, I have been in full time ministry for close to 20 years. I have served as Men’s Ministry leader, Pastor, Church Planter, and Pastor of Discipleship. I have had the privilege to have been mentored by some outstanding men who invested their lives into mine.

My passion is discipleship. It is to see men come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and then grow in that relationship to maturity. My life verses are Matthew 28:18-20, and 2 Timothy 2:2. These passages are what drive and motivate me for the Kingdom work.

In this article I am including my philosophy of ministry when it comes to men. My job is to be a resource to you and the men in your church. As one who has served as a lead pastor, I know how busy you are, and I am here to help in any way. I would love to connect with you or the man in your church who is responsible for leading your men. Please contact me either by email rev.mark.perkins@gmail.com, or by phone (716) 940-9150.

**Philosophy of Ministry to Men**

**Why:**

Men are suffering from an identity crisis. They do not know who they are. Most importantly they do not know who they are in Christ. Because they do not know who they are in Christ, they do not know who they are as husbands, fathers, co-workers. They do not know their manhood.

The media and society have corrupted the image of a man. Men are portrayed as weak, incompetent, lazy, crude, sexist. Unfortunately, this image has been adopted by men and it has become the reality.

The vast majority of our men feel trapped inside, and they are confused and suffering because of it. They have been conditioned by our culture to believe that their meaning and worth is in their outward performance, their jobs and careers, and their success. At some point in life, they begin to realize that something is missing, but they are not sure what it is and what to do with it. Even the men in our churches are feeling much of this tension.
Another issue is that often men do not have a safe space where they can be real with one-another. Where they can share the hard times, they may be experiencing and have other men come and walk alongside, helping them through the situation. We want to go beyond "Men's Breakfast" and help men build life-on-life relationships which help to strengthen the men in our churches.

We understand that pastors are experiencing the struggle of pastoring. We do not want to add something else to their plate, but we want to come alongside and help in any way we can. We are not looking at starting another program, but we want to help men build relationships and as they do, grow together in their faith.

Mission:
The mission of Alliance Men is to transform men into the image of Christ who will then transform the world around them.

Goals:
- To see men's hearts transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to walk like Jesus.
- To see every man in the Northeast District fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
- To see the next generation of men being raised up into the image of Christ.
- To see passionate leaders being built up and deployed in ministry both inside and outside the church walls.
- To see men, integrate their faith into every aspect of life: home, work, and play.
- To see men, engage with God, their families, and others.
- To help men be responsible in their: walk with God; relationships; finances; and health.

Outcomes:
We believe that the outcomes of meeting these goals will be men in our churches who are mature in their relationship with God, walking closer to Him, more like Jesus, and truly fulfilling the image He intended for us.

Our men will understand their true identity in Christ, which then helps them to understand their true identity as a man, husband, father, and leader within our churches.

Looking forward to what the Lord will do!
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NED RESOURCES BULLETIN BOARD

NED Connection Articles
for the March edition are due by February 24, 2021.
office@nedcma.org

Membership Certificates
Please contact the District Office at 315-336-4720 Ext. 201 or office@nedcma.org to request church membership certificates.

District Bible Quizzing
Claudine Campbell
District Quiz Coordinator
607-529-8879 cell
claudine@northeasternquizzing.org

District Prayer Chain
Lorraine Regnier
District Prayer Coordinator
Prayer requests will be distributed throughout the Northeastern District family by contacting Lorraine directly at lorregnier@aol.com

NED Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30 AM-4:30 PM

The NED Web
nedcma.org

THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT
OF THE C&MA
6275 Pillmore Drive
Rome, NY 13440
Phone: 315-336-4720
Fax: 315-336-0347
Contact via E-mail
office@nedcma.org

District Superintendent
David B. Linn
dlinn@nedcma.org
Barbara S. Linn
barb.linn@twc.com

Assist. to DS/Missions Mobilizer
David M. Murphy
dmurphy@nedcma.org
Sally V. Fry
sfry@nedcma.org

Executive Assistant
Melanie M. Thornton
mthornton@nedcma.org

Disciplemaking Specialist
Lisa L. Vogan
lvogan@nedcma.org

District Bookkeeper
Edward W. Lyau
elyau@nedcma.org

Alliance Women Director
Terri A. Groh
terrigroh@yahoo.com

NED Men’s Ministry Director
Mark A. Perkins
rev.mark.perkins@gmail.com

Calendar
February

9  Evangelism Committee Meeting
   2:00 PM Teleconference

15  President’s Day—D.O. Closed

17  Church Annual Reports Due!

20  EMPOWER—Fulton Alliance

24  NED Connection Items Due

27  Evangelism Zoom Huddle
     10:00 AM

March

1  District and Prayer Conference
   Registration Opens

4  DDMT Mtg. Teleconference
   9:30 AM

9  Evangelism Committee Meeting
   2:00 PM Teleconference

15-17  Canandaigua Group—COTW

20  EMPOWER—Fulton Alliance

23  NED Connection Items Due

30  District In-Service Training
    10:00—3:00 via Zoom

Our District Committees are ready and available to offer resources and support to NED churches!

EVANGELISM
Mrs. Boonie Koonsman (Chair)
bjgable@gmail.com
(215) 518-2508

MISSIONS
Rev. Greg Wolters (Chair)
(315) 237-9864