

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



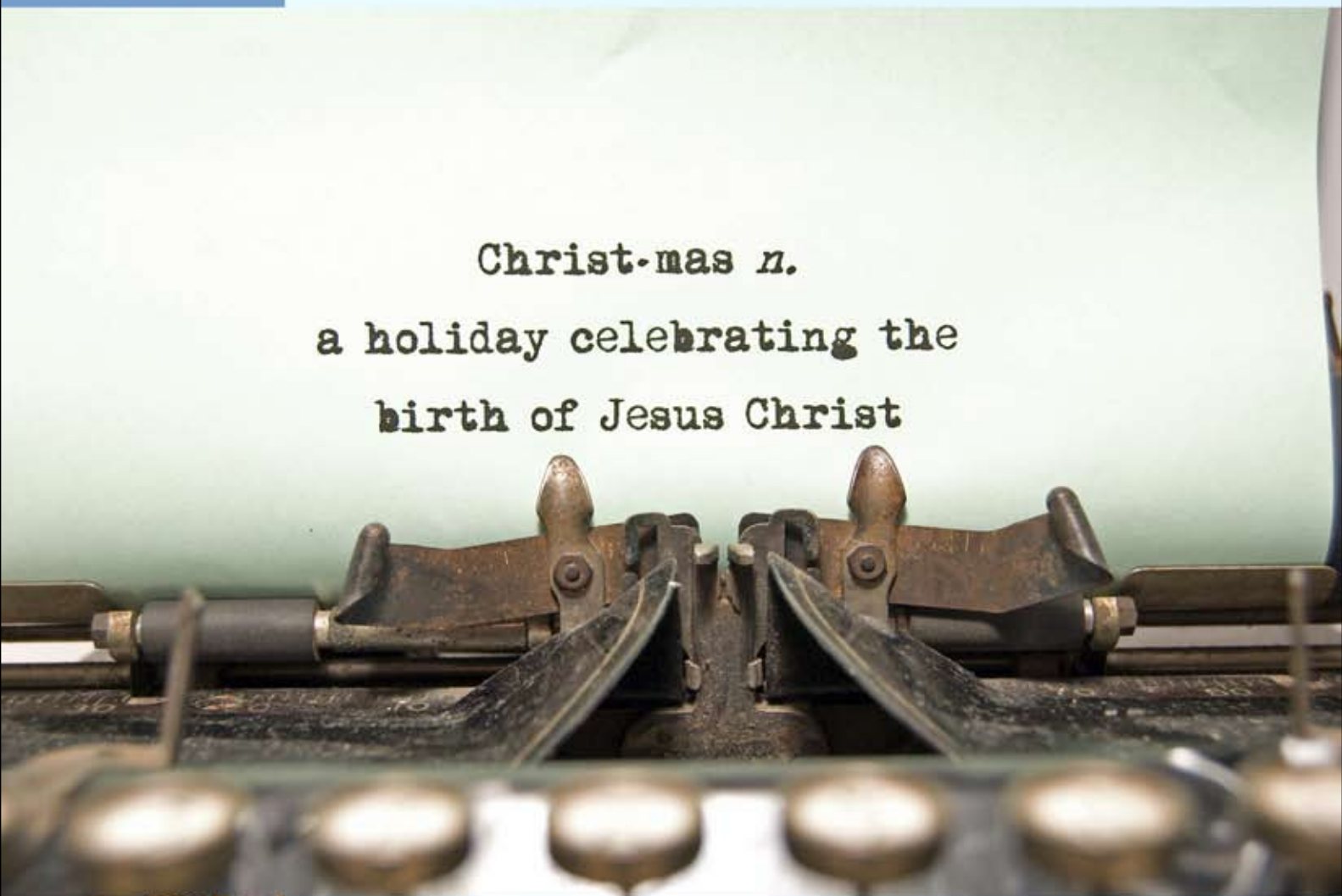
Winter 07-08

District Update

South Dakota Assemblies of God

Christ-mas n.

a holiday celebrating the
birth of Jesus Christ



*This Season Go
Back to the Basics*

Resourcing today's church
for better ministry
to every age and walk of life



The South Dakota District Update
Your Connection to Ministries, News & Events



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Across South Dakota

UPDATE

Our mailing address is:
PO Box 91750
Sioux Falls, SD 57109-1750

www.sdag.org
districtoffice@sdag.org

Voice (605) 367-3402
Fax (605) 367-3212

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Stephen R. Schaible
Superintendent

Rev. Ron Traub
Assistant Superintendent

Rev. Gary Wileman
Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT PRESBYTERS

Rev. Dan Kent
Black Hills Section

Rev. Reggie Ballard
Central Section

Rev. Kirk Strand
South East Section

Rev. Daniel Campbell
East Central Section

Rev. Cliff Sheldon
North East Section

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Rev. Ron Traub
World & US Missions

Rev. Mark Entzminger
Youth and Christian Education

Rev. Nels & Angie Easterby
Senior Adult Ministries

Rev. Jeff Mantz
HonorBound

Tim Cushman
Light for the Lost

Mike Glanzer
Royal Rangers

Rev. Dorothy Tuft Ludens
Women's Ministries Unlimited

Julie Weller
Girls Ministries

Rev. Dennis Preston
Native Ministries Rep.

The SOUTH DAKOTA UPDATE is a quarterly publication of the South Dakota District Council of the Assemblies of God located at 4220 W. 38th St. in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Christie Entzminger
Editor
update@sdag.org

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
SD UPDATE
PO Box 91750
Sioux Falls, SD 57109

In our travels back and forth across South Dakota, we have opportunity to meet with some of the world's most wonderful people. Sometimes it's over a cup of coffee (or hot chocolate for me), and sometimes it's in worship services or business meetings. Rachel and I feel that we are the most blessed people in the world!! Thank you for your friendship!

This past week, we attended the funeral of one of our minister friends – Charlie Graves. Charlie was active in ministry almost all his life and served in several communities in South Dakota and Minnesota. His most recent pastorate was in Menno. The Graves were some of the founding members of Mitchell Assembly of God.

We also recently received word of the passing of another of our saints – Leon Mitchell. The Mitchells were pastors in Edgemont when we first came to South Dakota back in the 80s. This is a story that we hear with increasing frequency. Our fellowship is aging and the passing of the baton to the next generation is crucial if we are going to see a continuation of ministry in our communities.

Today I spent the day working with some of this year's credential candidates. Some will be receiving new credentials and some are upgrading their existing credentials. It's always exciting to hear their stories and to see how God has directed their lives and brought them to this time and place. And yet, we're still praying to the 'Lord of the Harvest' that He would speak to others. The need always seems greater than the supply!

A few weeks ago, I was asked to serve as the chairman of the Board of Regents at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota. TBC has had a great history of training pastors in our region, and the continuation of that mission is vital to our existence. This is a very important time for all our colleges. Across our fellowship we are finding ourselves in desperate need of young men and women who have received ministry training, and are ready to receive the baton. This is definitely the time for us to show our support for our colleges both as

individuals and as churches. Thank you for responding to the Holy Spirit's prompting and for doing your part!



Rachel and I wish for you and your family the most blessed Christmas season. And may the Lord give you a New Year that is filled with victory and blessing!

*Rev. Stephen and Rachel Schaible
District Superintendent*

MINISTRY INNOVATIONS

What's the Point?

Last year our church in Clark tried something new. Gospel Publishing House came out with a new program called **High Point** that portrays children traveling to different locations around the world experiencing local cultures and learning character building lessons along the way.

Because it was new, we decided to take every aspect of the curriculum and apply it as best we could. We had a successful year using the DVD, dressing up each funny character, breaking off into our hub times (small group lesson application time) and teaching the Bible lessons at the end.

The children especially liked the role-play method of teaching and object lessons that taught "The Point." Our church family had a total of 5 kids between the ages of preschool and 6th grade and our average attendance reached close to 20 kids. But that was last year.

This year in our planning meeting it was suggested that we try something new and bold. Why not do our Wednesday evening "High Point" right after school instead of waiting until 7:00pm? Being across the street from the grade school has proven to be a great blessing. Most parents work until 5:00pm and kids need something to do after school anyway. It was a bold step, but it is paying off.



PASTOR KEVIN PETERSEN DURING HIGH POINT

Continued on Page 7

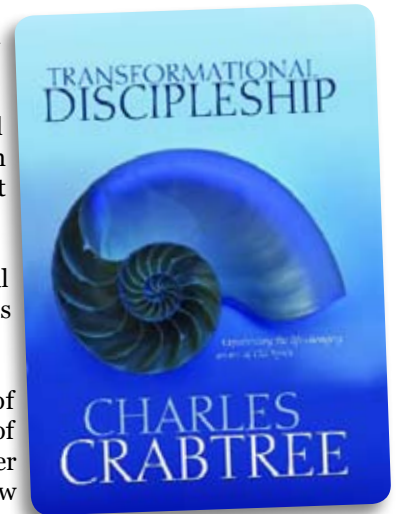
Numbers Speak To Me

Numbers in context vividly illustrate reality. When the number 3000 is reported in the second chapter of Acts we rejoice. Numbers can also be a sobering wake-up call.

In his book *“Transformational Discipleship,”* Charles Crabtree, former assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, provides numbers that demand attention. From 1995-2005, the Assemblies of God in the United States reported 5,339,144 decisions for Christ while Sunday morning attendance for the same period grew by only 221,790.

Where have these millions of people gone who “accepted Christ” in our churches? This numerical disparity clearly tells us that something is terribly wrong. Crabtree defines this “something” as “the discipleship crisis facing the church in America.”

A person’s acceptance of Christ as Savior must not be communicated as the final act of transformation, but rather the beginning of transformation into a disciple of Christ. Millions of souls who have taken that first defining step of faith in Christ are being left on the battlefield never to return as a disciple of Christ. Where are their fellow soldiers willing to risk all to bring new Christians into full discipleship? Where am I?



Crabtree urges us to focus on the **Basics of Christian Discipleship:**

- 1. Water Baptism:** Insist that new believers follow the command of Christ to be baptized. Baptism demonstrates a conviction to follow Jesus that goes beyond mental assent and oral confession.
- 2. Church Attendance:** It is difficult to maintain and recharge spiritually without regular church attendance.

Make a Connection
Between Church and Life

HIGH POINT

Each 5-session HighPoint kit builds Christ-like character traits in your kids that connect in every part of their lives.

Save \$10 on newest kit!
For more information, call or visit us online.

Visit www.gph.org/highpoint
or call 1.800.641.4310

Self-Esteem Kit
33HP1290\$59.99

3. A Transformed Life: Old things are put away. Christ must be given room to do a purifying work. Jesus must be given final authority in everything. Daily prayer becomes a way of life.

4. Godly Relationships: The church must provide opportunities for believers to develop strong, wholesome relationships with one another.

5. Systematic study of God’s Word: There is no substitute. Be it Sunday School, or other small group which focuses on Bible study, new believers must be involved.

Crabtree’s conclusion is simple and powerful. *“Each local church must do all it can to identify, encourage, and nourish new converts to become fully mature disciples.”*

That is the challenge. What is your church doing to take each person who raises a hand or comes forward to accept Christ and guide them on the journey to becoming a mature disciple of Christ? What am I doing?

Will the next ten years see us leave another 5 million on the battlefield? Or will we change eternal destinies by making transformational discipleship our highest priority?



by Chris Nelson
Secretary of State
Member, New Life AG
Pierre, SD



Fine Arts Festival

April 18-19, 2008

First Assembly of God, Sioux Falls, SD

Enter in the following categories:

Art Division: Graphic Design, Photography, Visual Art - 2D and 3D

Communication Division: Sign Language, Children's Lesson, Puppetry, Short Film, Short Sermon, Web Design

Drama Division: Drama Solo, Drama Ensemble, Human Video Solo, Human Video Ensemble

Exhibition Division: Book Chapter, Children's Literature, Original Instrumental Composition, Performance Art

Instrumental Division: Keyboard Solo, Instrumental Ensemble, Guitar Solo, Percussion Traditional, Percussion Non-Traditional, String Solo, Wind/Brass Solo

Vocal Division: Christian Band, Rap, Songwriting, Vocal Ensemble, Vocal Solo, Worship Team, Youth Choir

Writing Division: Essay, Poetry, Short Story, Sketch

MOMENTUM:

There are approximately 75,000 teenagers in South Dakota. Yet there are only a couple dozen leaders who have accepted the challenge to reach and disciple those students.

On January 17-19, we are holding one of the most important events of our year; MOMENTUM, our youth ministry retreat.

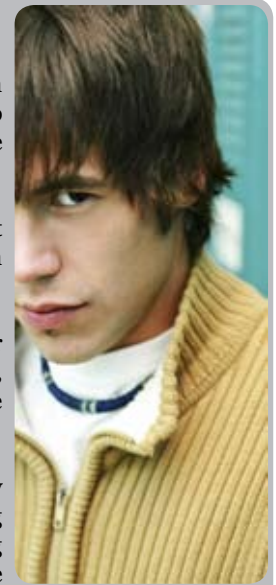
If you have a youth leader in your church, please do your part to help them attend this 48 hour time of networking, refreshment, and renewal. Healthy Ministers Produce Healthy Ministries!!!

This year's special guests are Pastor Aaron and Tammy Cole. They are the lead pastors of an up-and-coming church in Germantown, WI. Aaron and Tammy bring a wealth of knowledge about team building, innovative ways to minister to people, and a passion for students. We guarantee your youth minister will be impacted during our time together.

Here's how you can help:

1. Cover their registration/lodging expenses (meals are included);
2. Pay their gas;
3. Offer to watch their children for the weekend (hey, let's face it... they'll be less distracted if their children are in a great home for a couple of days); and/or
4. Send them a shower of encouragement. Your youth leaders spend countless hours investing in students. Take a few moments to write them a note that shows your appreciation for their sacrifice and commitment.

If you would like to find out how to sponsor a youth leader, please contact me at mark@sdag.org or (605) 367-3402.



Be a Part of a Dream!!!

In July 2008 students from South Dakota will be joining with students from across the nation to participate in the largest youth outreach for teens in Assemblies of God history in the Country of El Salvador.

This outreach will include dozens of school assemblies featuring student testimonies, creative ministry, and an invitation to a Saturday afternoon rally. In addition, we are working to develop student-led campus clubs in all of the schools.

The Saturday rally will be held at the city fairgrounds where early estimates show we can seat up to 10,000 students!

Though there are many details still to be worked out, we would like to invite you to partner with us to make this trip a success. The following are ways you can be involved:

1. **Send Students**
2. **Send Leaders**
3. **Pray and Fast**
4. **Support Financially**

You can find more information about the trip details online at aim.atripleshot.com. We look forward to bringing back a great report next summer!



We greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Scripture in 2 Chronicles 7:14 reads, "If my people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land." (Amplified Bible) The Lord has impressed upon us the need for prayer warriors and we are encouraging our senior population to pray unceasingly. As we are soon to embark on a full-fledged presidential campaign, it behooves us to pray diligently for God's plan to be fulfilled in choosing the leaders of our country.

We had a great number turn out for our Middle & Senior Adult Fall Retreat which was held September 5-7 at Camp Judson in the beautiful Black Hills! The Lord blessed us once again with wonderful weather (although a few of us got wet on Thursday afternoon), a great time of fellowship and delicious food!

The ministry of our guests, Dave & Ladonna Weston, was so encouraging and uplifting. We were ministered to in a very special way by their wonderful talents on piano and marimba, and were thoroughly blessed by their spirited music and preaching of the Word. The Lord's presence was evident in every service, for which we are so thankful. The wonderful times we had around the altar each evening was very enriching; this is such a vital part of our time together! The evaluation sheets reflected many of the same thoughts and many expressed that the prayer times around the altar were a highlight. Our utmost goal is to be led by the Spirit.

It will soon be time again for the Spring Banquet Tour which will be held April 21-26, 2008. Our speaker will be Rev. Larry Mather. Larry is retired and lives with his wife, Jo, in Springfield, MO. Prior to their retirement, they pastored a church in Minnesota for 30+ years. We are looking forward to his ministry and are confident it will be a blessing to all of us.



We are making a location change for two of our sectional banquets this year, which is progressing well. Our plan is to hold the SE Section banquet in Yankton (rather than Sioux Falls), and the Black Hills Section banquet in Spearfish (rather than Rapid City). We will keep you updated as the time gets nearer. We thank you for your continued faithful prayer and financial support of this very important ministry. The Lord bless you all.

In Christ's Love,

*Rev. Nels & Angie Easterby
Senior Adult Ministries Directors*

NATIONAL GIRLS MINISTRIES

A New Year

We have kicked off another exciting year in Girls Ministries. We have had a couple of new churches charter this year, and we praise God for expanding His Kingdom through the wonderful young ladies in our state.



Our desire is to encourage every girl to be a missionary where she is, just as the Lord intends her to be.

We are getting ready to prepare our Love Baskets for District Council 2008. Diana or I will be calling soo to see if your Girls Ministries can bless our home missionaries with a "big ticket" household item. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,

*Julie Weller
Girls Ministries Director*

GIRL'S TALENT ON A BILLBOARD



One out of more than 4,000 posters was chosen to show what the red ribbon anti-alcohol and drug campaign is all about.

You can see the winner's artwork on Cambell Street near the fairgrounds in Rapid City.

Nine-year-old Kaleigh Crumb of Grandview Elementary got to see her billboard displayed this afternoon.

For winning the poster contest, she will receive a one-hundred dollar savings bond from Family Thrift and a pizza party for her class. Recently she was the marshal of the Red Ribbon Parade where the smaller version of her poster was displayed.

Kaleigh is the daughter of Pastor Rob and Michelle Crumb, Adult Ministries Pastors at First Assembly of God, Rapid City.

CHILDREN'S PASTORS TRAVELING ABROAD

Training Children's Pastors in Nigeria

Recently, Richard & Deb Ried (Missionaries to Nigeria) dedicated a new children's ministry training facility in Nigeria. This building was built with the help of many churches across the district that raised funds over the past few years.



Now a team of South Dakota children's pastors will be going to participate in the first Children's Ministry Training Conference in that facility!

Ryan Corbin (First Assembly of God, Sioux Falls) is coordinating a team that will facilitate training classes for around 500 Nigerian children's pastors in early January 2008. These children's pastors have come to realize that children are the hope for the future evangelization of their nation, yet they have very little training and resources to help them reach kids.

This South Dakota team will present workshops in a variety of children's ministry skills including puppets, clowning, balloon animals, and more.

To the right is a shopping list of items that they have requested to take to Nigeria to assist in the training. The goal is to have enough resources to use in the training, but also to leave plenty of supplies so the Nigerian children's pastors can continue to develop their skills.

This team will be departing on January 4th. Any donations should be submitted before the first of the year to allow time for shopping, packing, and inventory. If you are able to assist with providing funds for these supplies, please make your checks payable to First Assembly of God (MEMO: Nigeria Children) and send them to:

Ryan Corbin - c/o First Assembly of God
6300 W. 41st St. - Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Nigeria Shopping List

- Heart-shaped balloons - \$3 per bag
- 10 bags of (250) balloons - \$11 per bag
- Wigs - \$25 each
- Funny glasses - \$2-2.50 each
- Clown makeup - \$12 a jar
- 15 Bicycle pumps - \$5 each

NOTE: Please send in your offering for the purchase of the items instead of the item itself.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY TRAVELING ABROAD



South Dakota Nigeria Women's Missions Trip (early) November 2008

Cost: \$2500-\$3000 (final cost TBA)

Plus the cost of passport and visa, medical shots, and spending money.

Possible Ministry Opportunities: Widow conference, medical clinic, children's outreach, missionary wives tea, national pastors wives tea.

For more information, please contact Pastor Mary Anderson at 605-342-8265 (mary@firstagrc.com) or Janel Campbell at 605-692-9592 (sdwmunlimited@yahoo.com)

A \$100 deposit is needed by February 1st, 2008 to hold your place.

Greetings from Indonesia



ISABELLE ANNA WINTER

Hello, from Surabaya, Indonesia. We (Jonathan Winter and family) have had a busy time the last four months since moving to East Java. Alex and daddy took a special little vacation to Singapore (to have surgery done). Alex had a hydrocell (similar to a hernia) operation. All was a success, and on the night of the surgery Alex attempted to eat a 6” tall piece of chocolate mud pie—which helped him forget about all of the uncomfortable parts of the trip.

Our biggest family news was the birth of Isabelle Anna Winter on July 5th here in Surabaya. She weighed 2.7k (which is about 5lb, 15.5oz). Although it was a difficult labor, she is a sweet and easy baby.

The time that we have not spent in the hospital has also been exciting. We have had several great times of ministry with 17 individuals responding to the message of Christ, water baptisms, and people being touched by the Holy Spirit. Also this week, we started two new things: (1) Jonathan began teaching New Testament Survey last Wednesday and, (2) last Monday, we began a program to train and mentor new church planters who will be working in very challenging areas.



ISABELLE WITH HER LOVING BROTHERS

Because of you, we were able to provide half of the \$2000 needed for these 7 future church planters to attend the two week training workshops which will be held over the course of the next 2 years. We will bring them together for theological, pastoral, and vocational training, then place them with pastors who have already successfully started new works to mentor and help them plan strategically as they return home. We have already had some wonderful times of prayer with them. Although there is anticipation, there is also the confidence that the power of God is upon them, enabling them to go into these challenging areas. This is why we are here and do what we do ... so we can see God’s message of salvation going into every place.

*by Jonathan and Mary Winter
AG World Missionaries to Indonesia*

MINISTRY INNOVATIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

At our first meeting this fall, 46 kids showed up! We anticipated a good turnout, but we were pleasantly surprised to say the least. In order to make things go smoothly we had made some adjustments, and we are so glad we did.

Our program starts off with snacks at 3:15pm, which parallels the after school program the kids are used to. At 3:30pm we launch into our program with our pledges to the Bible and the American and Christian flags. Then it’s off to the lesson. We end our day together with the Bible story and send them home at 5:00pm.

We currently have 70 kids signed up and our attendance has been in the 50s. We have 16 leaders involved each night, which includes teenage helpers. Counting our leadership, our total attendance on Wednesdays has now exceeded that of our Sunday mornings by nearly 20!

Don’t let the size of your church stop you from taking bold steps for God. When God asks the question, “Whom can I send?” respond as Isaiah did, “Here am I, send me!”



*by Kevin Petersen
Senior Pastor
Clark Assembly of God
Clark, SD*



QUICK CALENDAR

December:

3: National Teen Challenge Day
24-28: Offices Closed (Holiday)
25: Christmas Day
31: Credential Renewal Deadline
31: BGMC Contributions Deadline
31: Speed the Light Contributions Deadline

January:

3: Rev. Stephen Schaible's Birthday (Global Holiday)
4-18: Children's Pastor Missions Trip (Nigeria)
6-12: National Week of Prayer
16: STL Tour
17-19: Momentum Youth Leader Retreat (Chamberlain)
19-20: STL Tour
25-26: Royal Ranger Pow Wow (Winner)

February:

22-23: Women in Ministry Breakaway (Chamberlain)
24: Women's Ministries *Unlimited* Day

March:

7-8: HonorBound Men's Retreat (Huron)
9: BGMC Sunday
14-15: HonorBound Men's Retreat (Kamp Kinship)
16: Palm Sunday
21: Good Friday
23: Easter Sunday
31: J. Robert Ashcroft Scholarship Deadline

relevant • refreshing • respected

NEO
NATIONAL EVANGELISTS OFFICE

National Evangelists Office
1445 N. Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
ph: 417.862.2781 ext. 1302
fax: 417.862.5320

Visit our online directory at:
<http://evangelists.ag.org>



Update

PO Box 91750
Sioux Falls, SD 57109

(605) 367-3402 voice
(605) 367-3212 fax

districtoffice@sdag.org
www.sdag.org