

13TH ANNUAL REPORT ▪ Auburn, CA ▪ April 26, 2019

Rev. Steven R. Scott, District Superintendent



The Reunion

noun / re·un·ion / rē'yoon'yən

(the act of being brought together again as a unified whole)

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE I bring my 13th report as District Superintendent of the Sacramento District, now in my 31st year as an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. I'm humbled every day by the profound blessing of knowing and serving Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, and I am so grateful for the honor of serving with a leadership team that includes the following colleagues and friends:

...the District Office staff of Rev. Mike Havens/ District Administrator (District Treasurer, coordinator for The Reunion, Family Camp, Pastoral Team Retreat, District condo and office facilities); Kaitlin Peoples/ Office Manager (coordinator of all district office procedures, designer of promotional resources for all district events, preparation of documents for local Church-Pastoral Reviews, registrar of Family Camp, editor of the District Yearbook, and assistant with various duties of the District Superintendent); and Jessica Moreno/Office Assistant (providing support in the district office for clerical duties, District Facebook page manager, office technical support, purchasing, arrangements and set up for various district events); Mike, Kaitlin & Jessica all serve with a great spirit and a deep love for the church. I am honored to serve with them! Please join me in expressing thanks to our District Office staff!

...to the District Advisory Board: Dr. Stephen Campbell/Redding First; Dr. Mark Lehman/Sutter Creek; Rev. Mike Peoples/Roseville Journey; Rev. Joe Sturgeon/Susanville; Mark Bennett/Stockton First; Bob Capp/Auburn Parkside; Gary Greeno/Stockton Horizon; and Bill Morrison/Sacramento Arden.

... to Rev. Austin Bender/ Nazarene Youth International President; Rev. Darlene Franks/Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries Chair; Joanne Sturgeon/ Nazarene Missions International President; Dr. Leon Skinner/District Institute of Ministry Director; Rev. Ron Zimmer/Summer Camps Ministries Director, Cathy Scharf/Children's Ministries Director; Rev. Eldon Nice/District Secretary; the Ministerial Studies & Credentials Boards (listed by name in their respective reports); and all the members of the SDMI Board, NMI Council, and & NYI Council, and our summer camp directors. Special thanks to Rev. Eldon Nice who concludes three years of service as District Secretary to enter retirement.....for now.

...to all the Senior/Lead Pastors, Associate Pastoral Staff and spouses who faithfully serve the communities of the Sacramento District.

...to my precious wife Debbie, our sons Robert & David for their love and support.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to this amazing group of people!



DURING THE 2018-2019 year my responsibilities as D.S. included the honor and joy of:

- ❖ Meeting with **123** pastors/ministry leaders for various issues & needs,
- ❖ Visiting and interacting on **32** church campuses on the district,
- ❖ Preaching in **12** worship services,
- ❖ Participating in **22** district board/committee/council meetings,
- ❖ Conducting **9** Church/Pastoral Reviews,
- ❖ Chairing the pastoral search process in **3** churches,
- ❖ Participating in **32** Church Board & Congregational Meetings,
- ❖ Resourcing **4** Lifelong Learning gatherings for Pastoral leaders, and
- ❖ Participating in **2** Board of Trustee meetings for Point Loma Nazarene University.



In the past year I participated in the following events for Lifelong Learning and personal development: Dist. Superintendent Leadership Development (Colorado Springs, CO); Dist. Superintendent Leadership Conference (Kansas City, MO); M-19 Discipleship Conference (Kansas City, MO); PLNU Convocation for Clergy Preparation (Mission San Luis Rey); PLNU Ministerial Candidate Workshop (San Diego).

MY VISION FOR US AS A DISTRICT of local churches is that we understand ourselves to be the literal presence of Christ in our communities. On the day of His ascension Jesus said, “*you will receive power to be my witnesses.*” Every year we affirm our desire to be devoted members of the body of Christ, inspired by the Great Commission to engage in ministries that result in our ability to identify:

- **newborn believers** who are being delivered and disciplined in our churches;
- **growing believers** who are being baptized in our churches by the profession of their faith;
- **maturing believers** who are uniting with the community as devoted followers of Jesus;
- **at least 10%** of annual giving committed to the regional & global mission of the church;
- **future plans** to partner in the planting of new churches in our local mission areas;
- **an ongoing**, definable link to our local communities through outreach & service.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 49 officially active organized churches (plus 3 inactive properties, 2 of which are being used by Churches other than Nazarene), **6** Church Type Missions, and an additional **7** parented congregations for second languages, for a total of **62 active congregations**. On February 3, 2019, Super Bowl Sunday, while it was snowing, our most recent new church plant was launched through Victory Christian Fellowship in Reno, with Pastor David McDowell. I am hopeful that in the coming year we will be able finalize the plan for a new church ministry in Shasta Lake City.

LOOKING OVER THE PAST YEAR, we have many reasons to celebrate God’s faithfulness through the fruit of our ministries for His glory. As we review this year’s Vital Signs you will see that our collective impact through discipleship and worship have both experienced a decline in recent years. As we view this summary, there must be a sincere resolve amongst us as a body of believers, for discipleship and worship to be revived for the sake of those who continue to grow in faith, and also for those who are attempting to live without the transforming reality of Jesus in their lives.

Sacramento District Comparative Vital Signs	2018	2019
<u>Discipleship/SS Enrollment</u> <i>This is evidence that we are CONNECTING with people and nurturing relationships with them. These are live connections; how often are they remembered by you & your church?</i>	26,174	29,840*
<u>Discipleship/SS Attendance</u> <i>This indicates that we are DISCIPLING people, in the Word, any group, any day, growing in faith, being equipped to evangelize & disciple others. A must – have for every believer!</i>	9,124*	8,511
<u>Weekly Worship</u> <i>This is an event for ENRICHING people; worship is central to life. This must be a place of vitality and adoration of God as we gather faithfully.</i>	10,707	10,081†
<u>Church Membership</u> <i>This indicates that people are EMBRACING the mission. Most people are willing to commit to something that really matters. This is clearly the threshold of a mobilized church.</i>	11,400*	11,392**
<u>New Members by Profession of Faith</u> <i>This is evidence that we are BUILDING community. It is a next step for growing in faith & spiritual development beyond baptism.</i>	617	467
<u>Total Combined Giving</u> by the Sacramento District local churches. <i>The highest amount in the District's 57 year history. An encouraging indication of biblical stewardship.</i>	\$17,169,612 ⁰⁰	17,811.190 ^{00*}
Total Conversions Combined for All Local Churches	1,471	1,189
Total Baptisms Combined for All Local Churches	623	507

* Highest ever recorded on Sac District

** Second highest ever recorded on the Sac District

† Indicates THIRD year in decline

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We see and hear about several images each day that tell us something about the condition of the world, good and bad: economic stability, scandals, immigration, kindness, political conflict, aggravated racial tension, distorted sexual identity, exploitation, greed, conflict, dissention and lots more. These issues and conditions can be found in all of our local communities, in our region, and around the world.

It is a good thing for us to be reminded that God himself has a response to every one of these issues. I believe He wants to communicate His response to all of these issues through His church. There are a lot of things we do in the name of the church, and I want to affirm everything we are doing that allows God to do what He wants to do through us. In order for God's response to be communicated through the church, I believe He wants to revive us to be truthful, courageous, gracious, and most of all, obedient to how He wants to lead people to Himself who are in the midst of these issues; who are unable to see the hope of the gospel in and of themselves because sin has blinded their hearts and minds.

Let me take just a moment to share a word from one of our sponsors: Do you have difficulty climbing up stairs without getting winded; do you get dry mouth in the middle of the night; have trouble digesting certain foods that were never an issue before; have you noticed spots are appearing on your skin that don't wash off any more; are you 64 yrs. old? Well, that explains it. Just as there are factors that indicate our physical **wellness** as individuals, there are also factors that indicate our wellness as the church. We count various forms of attendance and giving, but how else do we determine the wellness and impact of our church on a sinful, hungry world?

Along with our innovative ideas of how to DO church, I believe at the heart of everything we do we must rely on the power of the truth of God's Word; proclaimed, demonstrated, and celebrated by the church.

In his book, The Root of the Righteous, A.W. Tozer shares that the heart of every person has a throne and a cross. A person who is indifferent to the cross occupies their own throne. A person who has been reconciled to God finds their ultimate meaning in the authority of the cross, through the abiding presence of Jesus Christ, seated on the throne of their life. When the cross and the throne are out of alignment, there is an unavoidable spirit of **confusion** and disorientation that becomes evident in a person's life. Rather than be the church that prematurely condemns the alleged enemies of the cross, we have the opportunity, through our worship and discipleship, to be faithful and enthusiastic to speak the good news of the cross into the lives of those who wrestle with the throne of their heart.

Imagine being the church, so inspired, so courageous, so convinced that the saving grace of Jesus Christ is the will of God for all people, that we would devote ourselves to proclaim this, and that we would envision the ability of God's Spirit to do this work in anyone He brings into our life. People of faith can't dwell on what the church most likely won't be able to do for certain people groups of our day; that is a spiritually anemic view for a disciple of Jesus Christ. Instead, people of faith pray, believe, and envision what God **will** do as we give Him our lives for His glory. Imagine being a church in your community that:

- reaches and impacts, loves and honors the younger generations of our day, contrary to reported trends that they are not interested in the church of Jesus Christ;
- becomes a prominent civic influence through community partnerships and advocacy groups;
- establishes multi-cultural engagement in your congregation beyond ethnic congregations;
- duplicates and plants itself into communities and neighborhoods in need of the body of Christ.

I hope Isaiah's words will inspire us as the church to be the transforming voice of **truth** in Jesus' name:

Isaiah 61 ¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Respectfully & gratefully submitted,
Steven R. Scott

Speak truth in love wherever there is hatred, and wherever people have been spiritually deceived.