

INDIANA SOUTH WESLEYAN



Dr. Mark S. F. Eckart

District Superintendent's Schedule

April 2004

- 1-2 IWU Board Meeting
- 4 A.M. Franklin
- P.M. Columbus Ohio St. LCC
- 7 Wed. Church Visit
- 11 EASTER SUNDAY**
- 14 Wed. Bloomfield Mt. Zion LCC
- 18 A.M. Evansville Trinity
- P.M. Church Visit
- 21 Wed. Church Visit
- 24 Sat. IWU Graduation
- 25 A.M. Terre Haute Hulman
- P.M. Spearsville
- 28 Wed. Paoli LCC
- 26-30 Work Week

MAY 2004

- 1 Sat. DBA/BYF Banquet
- 2 A.M. Salem
- P.M. Mitchell
- 3-7 Ministerial Seminar
- 9 A.M. Simpson Chapel
- 16 A.M. Princeton
- P.M. Ft. Branch
- 19 Wed. West Terre Haute 8th St.
- 23 A.M. Milan
- P.M. Versailles
- 30 A.M. Greenfield
- P.M. Walker Chapel

Note: Our office is here to serve you. Office hours are 9-5 Monday through Friday. If per chance no one is available, just leave a message and we will return your call. Thanks!

Hallelujah
"He Is Risen!"
—Mark 16:6

Deep and Wide *5 Principles of Church Growth*

By Dr. Mark Eckart • (This was written while pastoring.)

It is reported that Charles Spurgeon once said that, "Those who never care about statistics never have any to report." There is of course, a lot more to a church than numbers but numbers are vitally important when talking about church work. I tell the church often that I would much rather preach to people than pews!

However, I do understand that a pastor or church can get so caught in the numbers game that they become proud or, even worse, dishonest in reporting attendance so they can appear "bigger" than they really are. With that being said I want to give the following concepts that I believe have advanced our ministry here at Westport. God has helped us in our pastoral effort. I got a report the other day about the last four years of our ministry, and we have been in the "top ten" for church growth in our district for 24 of the 48 months. We have also showed a gain for several months beyond the 24 mentioned above. This "top ten" category is calculated from nearly 100 churches in our district. So, recognizing that nothing is accomplished unless God gives the increase, here are five crucial church growth principles that have been important to us:

Prayer

I had only been here a few weeks until we got serious about praying for God to help us in our ministry. We signed up forty people that would pray an hour a week for our ministry at church. There were also about twenty people that agreed to fast at least one meal a week for our church. Just recently we have had another prayer drive until the end of the year where scores of people have agreed to pray and fast for God to help us.

This emphasis on prayer was really validated for me this summer when on vacation my family visited Brooklyn Tabernacle for a

service in New York City. Wow! It was like what Pentecost Sunday must have been. The Spirit of God was powerfully working in that place that day. I found out later one of the reasons why. Each service they have on Sunday there are 20 people meeting in a prayer room at the church interceding for the service as it is being held. Pastor Jim Cymbala and his people are seeing God work miracles, and it is because for the most part that they are a praying people. This church is not in the holiness tradition, but they sure understand the power of prayer!

Public Relations

People need to know where your church is, what time it starts, and what you are about. We have done several things to try to enhance our image in the community and to get exposure. We put up a lighted church sign on a busy street beside the church that allows us to post creative messages for those driving by to read. People have told us that they drive across town just to read the message on our church sign. The Lord worked it out whereby I write a newspaper article every three weeks for a central Indiana newspaper that has about 20,000 readers. This is not only an important ministry tool, but of course it is great advertisement for our church as well.

There are radio stations that allow pastors to call in and advertise special events that are happening at their churches. Several Sunday mornings I have been able to do live interviews with the stations about our services for that day and also have them to read "free" public service announcements throughout the week.

We have had a community Palm Walk that our church has sponsored for several years, and this has given us great community exposure. For a couple of years our church was on the front page of the paper, and I was interviewed about the Palm

continued on page 2

Walk. This kind of outreach will allow you to reach thousands of people with the good news about your church but it won't cost you a dime!

How will people ever come to your church if they don't know where it is located? Proper public relations will help get people in the door and a lot of the advertisement is free!

Persistence

People need to not only know where your church is but that you really care for them as well. When they do find your church there needs to be a plan of action whereby the visitor will know that this church does not just talk love but they show love.

We have a care basket made up for all new visitors. In the basket is a jar of honey that has our church name on it. There is also a brochure about our church detailing when the services start, what we believe, and the ministries we offer. New visitors also get a dozen hot cookies the following week from ladies in the church, a letter from the pastor, and cards from other church members thanking the visitors for attending.

I have what I also call my "Saturday Night" list. Every Saturday evening I make a phone call to the new families that have been attending our church. By design it is a short conversation. I normally greet them and then ask if they are going to make it out tomorrow. This strategy has been very effective to get the new people in the habit of attending the Sunday services.

I have also contacted the real estate agent in our community and asked him to let me know about the new people that are moving in our vicinity. We have taken these people a care package as well. We just do a short visit to let them know who we are, where our church is located, and to let them know we would love for them to visit our church. One church growth expert said the two basic reasons why new people attend church are pain and transition. If this is the case, we want to encourage new people moving into our community to pay us a visit while they are still in transition and getting used to our area.

Preaching

Some recent research has supported once again the importance that preaching

has concerning the growth of the local church. In Dr. Rainer's latest book, *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*, he points out that 90% of the formerly "unchurched" said the reason that they came back to visit a church was because of the pastor and the preaching. It led the list of why people would attend a church for the second time.

Of course, we can also conclude from this research that if the preaching is not done properly there is a good chance that the visitor will not return. May God help us to have preaching that is Biblically accurate, relevant, inspired, and convicting. As Reinhold Niebuhr once said, "Preaching should comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Pliability

A lot of churches are so rigid they would never think of changing anything to see the Kingdom of God advanced. This is why I am thankful at our church the leadership team has allowed some changes that have enhanced our outreach. This could be everything from the time church starts, to the programs being offered, and the type of music that is used. One man said it well when he stated, "If we do what we have always done we will be what we have always been."

Is pastoring easy? Absolutely not. Like most pastors I have thought about resigning on several Sunday mornings! Pastors are on the front lines, and it is a war. We have to fight the devil, discouragement, and only the Lord knows what else. But through all the battles, I believe that God is more than able to help us advance the Kingdom. By His grace we are seeing some people saved, sanctified, and healed physically for His glory!

When I was a kid in Sunday School we used to sing a chorus called "Deep and Wide." Of course, this song was relating to the blood of Christ but I think this theme is what God also has in mind for the church. Often when we hear of a mega church these days someone will say, "Oh that church is a mile wide and an inch deep." This is no doubt true about some churches but the other way is not good either. Because you see some churches are a "mile deep and an inch wide." Why can't it be both "deep and wide?"

Upcoming Dates for Indiana South District

Feb.	25 - April 10	FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING
April	26 - 30	Annual Camp Work Week
June	14 - 18	Kid's Camp
July	5 - 9	Teen Camp
June	19 - 23	General Conference / Grand Rapids, MI
July	23	District Conference
July	24	Wesleyan Women Convention
July	23 - August 1	District Family Camp

Indiana South District Ministerial Seminar

May 3-7, 2004

What Classes Will Be Offered in May 2004?

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- New Testament Introduction
- Wesleyan Church History & Discipline
- Christian Education

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- General Church History
- Spiritual Formation
- Introduction to Homiletics

For more information, contact:

Rev. Bob England
Seminar Coordinator
812-825-5917

E-mail: bob_e_sr_47424@yahoo.com

G.L.A.D. Update

As this paper is going to press, we currently have **40 members** in the G.L.A.D. program. This is \$48,000.00 that has been pledged and a lot of it already paid to help the district get out of debt. Praise God! Why don't you call the office and sign up as well? For every one or church that gives \$1,200.00, their name (or that of a loved one) will be put on a special commemorative brick that will be put around the water fountain in front of the tabernacle.

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Wesleyan New World Headquarters

Nearly 400 church and community leaders, corporate representatives, local news media, and area guests attended the March 16, 2004 dedication of the New World Headquarters of The Wesleyan Church in Fishers, Indiana. The snowy day, with forecast of several inches of snow, did not curb enthusiasm for celebrating God's blessings and the sacrifice of his people in the auditorium of the relocated headquarters.



The New World headquarters is the first major building in the 700-acre Saxony development in Hamilton County, and spans I-69 in both Noblesville and Fishers. In 1987, The Wesleyan Church moved to the Castleton Park complex from its previous headquarters in Marion, Indiana. The new building, which was unanimously approved by the General Board at its November 2001 meeting, will offer state-of-the-art training facilities, including a 400-seat auditorium. The Wesleyan Investment Foundation, a subsidiary

financial institution of the denomination, gave the property to the Church and will provide substantial grants over the next five years to fund construction. Thank the Lord for the generosity of W.I.F. to provide this beautiful facility to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

The World Headquarters building will maintain its current mailing address: PO Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

The new telephone number for the building is 317-774-7900.

Best Years Fellowship Banquet

Attention: All Pastors and BYF Directors please help promote our annual spring BYF banquet the first Saturday of May. This year it is May 1st. Promote it in your church bulletins and announce it from the pulpit. Send in your reservations so we will know how many to prepare for. I would like to see 150 or more this year. Dr. Ray Barnwell our General Director will be our special speaker. Come and enjoy good music, food, fellowship, fun, and a great message!

Rev. Philo Jones,
District BYF Director

Best Year's Fellowship Banquet

Saturday, May 1, 2004 • 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Orleans Campground, Orleans, IN

Cost \$10 per person

I plan to attend: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Will Pay at banquet _____ Mail to:

Please return this form as soon as possible,
so we will know how many plan to attend.
Thank you.

Philo Jones
6739 E. Speed Rd.
Milltown, IN 47145

About North American Missions Offering Purpose

Since 1937, the Easter season has been a time for Wesleyans to express our commitment to making Christ known across the United States and Canada. The annual **North American Missions Offering** for Wesleyan evangelism and church growth (formerly known as the Easter offering) directs millions of dollars toward the winning of tens of thousands of new believers, the equipping of thousands new leaders, the planting of hundreds of new churches, and the development of many useful tools and strategies for personal witnessing and church growth. It is a wonderful opportunity to unite in fulfilling our Church's "home missions" objective of bringing people together in Christ and multiplying healthy churches in the U.S. and Canada.

Changes Coming The Wesleyan Advocate

The Wesleyan Advocate has served as the devotional and informational printed medium for The Wesleyan Church since 1968. Effective with the June 2004 issue, the name will be changed to *Wesleyan Life*. Along with the name change will be an expansion in the size of the magazine (24 to 32 pages). It will be published four times per year instead of eleven. Another major change is that it will be provided FREE in bulk for local church distribution. Home delivery will still be available for a nominal subscription fee. Be sure to watch for the inaugural issue in June 2004.



CONGRATULATIONS!
Pastor Mike Linville, Vice-Chairwoman Ms. JoLee Hayes, and Dr. Mark Eckart, burning the mortgage at Mooresville New Life Wesleyan Church.

CHURCH GROWTH REPORT

Church	Pastor	Feb. SS '04	Feb. SS '03	Variation	% Gain	AM	PM	Wk	Day
Austin	K. Wingham	15	10	5	50%	19	17	14	
Bedford	G. Tilley	23	26	3	0%	31	21	15	
Bicknell First	M. Reed	51	33	18	55%	56	23	81	
Birdseye	D. Murphy	16	11	5	45%	20	0	0	
Bloomfield Mt. Calvary	F. Collings	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Bloomfield Mt. Zion	B. Grunden	42	43	1	0%	42	15	13	
Bloomfield Southside	D. Sparks	18	18	0	0%	14	19	0	
Bloomington Central	E. Hayes	45	35	10	29%	49	26	19	
Bloomington Shepherd	B. Colburn	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Blue River	A. Marshall	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Boonville	E. Ames	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Brazil Jackson Street	E. Stewart	37	0	37	0%	42	19	21	
Carthage New Life	D. Gates	5	7	2	0%	12	0	22	
Clear Fork	R. Hotle	16	12	4	33%	20	13	9	
Columbus Bethel	B. Carpenter	0	0	0	0%	13	9	0	
Columbus Central	B. Miller	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Columbus Flintwood	P. Blair	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Columbus Ohio Street	J. Vandervort	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Concord	T. Whitham	25	25	0	0%	27	23	23	
Connersville Grandview	R. Wallace	10	9	1	11%	10	7	6	
Corydon New Hope	T. Bye	16	13	3	23%	43	26	16	
E. Enterprise	R. Albring	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Edinburgh	L. Biddle	36	32	4	13%	36	32	17	
English	P. Jones	65	0	65	0%	67	49	58	
Evansville Forest Hills	M. Stoelting	139	141	2	0%	251	99	169	
Evansville North Park	M. Linville	55	45	10	22%	90	19	38	
Evansville Trinity	E. Freels	51	61	10	0%	85	39	106	
Fort Branch	M. Hughes	13	25	12	0%	13	17	14	
Franklin	D. Neal	NO REPORT		0	0%				
French Lick SV	J. Moffatt	58	36	22	61%	96	52	31	
Gnaw Bone	G. Armstrong	17	18	1	0%	19	13	9	
Greenfield	J. Anderson	23	16	7	44%	15	17	17	
Greensburg	W. Thompson III	30	32	2	0%	40	19	11	
Greenwood	J. Hughes	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Helmsburg	D. Pfaff	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Holton	W. Vandervort	18	18	0	0%	19	10	7	
Hope First	E. Boston	22	9	13	144%	24	12	28	
Lawrenceburg	K. Mouser	23	20	3	15%	29	11	0	
Lewisville Trinity	C. Stroud	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Lewis Creek	C. Stroud	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Loogootee Mt. Zion	J. Simmons	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Madison Calvary	M. Mahoney	43	41	2	5%	68	40	40	
Marengo Valley	S. Lock	71	57	14	25%	129	60	64	
Martinsville	K. Kearby	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Martinsville Bethel	J. Irvin	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Mecca New Life	C. Todd	64	52	12	23%	90	51	140	
Medora	C. Morgan	37	42	5	0%	29	16	26	
Milan	TBS	NO REPORT		0	0%				

Church	Pastor	Feb. SS '04	Feb. SS '03	Variation	% Gain	AM	PM	Wk	Day
Mitchell	S. Jones	111	116	5	0%	199	100	199	
Mooresville New Life	M. Linville	23	25	2	0%	33	18	18	
Morgantown Emmaus	A. Kelley	7	8	1	0%	7	6	0	
New Albany Community DBA		NO REPORT		0	0%				
New Albany Spring Ave.	N. Watters	NO REPORT		0	0%				
North Vernon	J. Terry	46	37	9	24%	72	29	0	
Orleans	H. Carr	31	0	31	0%	39	22	18	
Otwell	H. Leehe	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Paoli	L. Manship	192	206	14	0%	344	215	169	
Petersburg	L. Lamar	12	11	1	9%	12	0	0	
Poplar Grove	J. Downes	30	21	9	43%	24	10	8	
Prairie Creek	T. Fennell	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Princeton	D. Reed	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Rising Sun	R. McCreary	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Rodney	M. Miller	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Rushville	H. Baker	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Salem	C. Johnson	10	9	1	11%	18	19	10	
Sandford	C. Hedden	11	10	1	10%	10	7	7	
Scott City	D. Ault	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Scottsburg	P. Mills	9	7	2	29%	12	8	10	
Seelyville	F. Burk, Jr.	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Seymour	I. Holt	21	24	3	0%	31	21	23	
Shelburn	D. Ault	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Shelbyville Grace	M. Chambers	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Shelbyville Westside	W. Seymour	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Simpson Chapel	R. Brown	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Somerville	D. Brandon	50	48	2	4%	54	41	34	
Spearsville	L. Collins	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Spencer - Emanuel	T. Kelley	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Sullivan	J. Knight	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Sylvania	B. England	81	46	35	76%	112	60	40	
Terre Haute Faith	D. Gormong	153	130	23	18%	236	171	194	
Terre Haute Hulman	D. Willis	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Terre Haute North	V. Reed	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Trafalgar	C. Hilton	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Valeene	D. Manship	23		23	0%	58	31	24	
Versailles	D. Jewell	32	25	7	28%	33	16	11	
Walker Chapel	R. Hendershot	17	13	4	31%	33	0	8	
Washington Main St.	P. Kessen	35	38	3	0%	60	37	22	
Washington Vincennes	J. Gilley	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Wesley Chapel	P. Kirk	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Westport	D. Knapp	NO REPORT		0	0%				
West Terre Haute 6th	L. Hedges	19	24	5	0%	17	9	16	
West Terre Haute 8th	P. Shelton	61	57	4	7%	63	49	34	
Wheatland	K. Mitchell	NO REPORT		0	0%				
Whitehall	D. Campbell	25	32	7	0%	23	15	15	
Wilmington Hills	D. Meriwether	23	21	2	10%	23	20	10	
TOTALS		2106	1795	311	17%	3011	1678	1884	

Top Ten Churches for Percentage Gain for Feb. 2004

Church	Pastor	% Gain	Church	Pastor	% Gain
Sylvania	(Rev. Bob England)	35	Hope First	(Rev. Ed Boston)	13
Terre Haute Faith	(Rev. Dan Gormong)	23	Mecca New Life	(Rev. Chet Todd)	12
French Lick	(Rev. John Moffatt)	22	Bloomington Central	(Rev. Ed Hayes)	10
Bicknell First	(Rev. Mark Reed)	18	Evansville North Park	(Rev. Mel Linville)	10
Marengo Valley	(Rev. Steve Lock)	14	Poplar Grove	(Rev. James Down)	9

Top Ten Numerical Gain for Feb. 2004

Church	Pastor	Gain
Hope First	(Rev. Ed Boston)	144%
Sylvania	(Rev. Bob England)	76%
French Lick	(Rev. John Moffatt)	61%
Bicknell First	(Rev. Mark Reed)	55%
Austin	(Rev. Keith Wingham)	50%
Birdseye	(Rev. Delbert Murphy)	45%
Greenfield	(Rev. John Anderson)	44%
Poplar Grove	(Rev. James Down)	43%
Clear Fork	(Rev. Ray Hotle)	33%
Walker Chapel	(Rev. Roy Hendershot, Jr.)	31%

