

INDIANA SOUTH WESLEYAN



August 2004



Dr. Mark Eckart
DIST. SUPERINTENDENT

District Superintendent's Schedule

September

Sept. 5 am	Morgantown
pm	Church Visits
Sept. 12 am	Sylvania
pm	French Lick
Sept. 19 am	Westport
pm	Scottsburg
Sept. 26 am	Lewis Creek
pm	Rushville

October

is Pastor Appreciation Month

Lay people you are strongly encouraged to remember your Pastor and their families during October, especially October 9, 2004 which is Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

Confessions of a Holiness Preacher

Pastor Chet Todd – Mecca Wesleyan Church

I am a holiness preacher. My dad was a holiness preacher. I come from a long line of men who believed, taught and lived the experience of holiness. I've studied it in seminary, wrote papers and essays on the subject, preached sermons about this experience of entire sanctification and even grieved over the lack of emphasis on it in our churches.

A little over two months ago, however, I had an encounter with God unlike anything I had ever experienced. This encounter caused me to re-evaluate what I believed about holiness and the experience of entire sanctification. Before anyone accuses me of heresy let me stop here for a minute to say that I believe in the sanctifying power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God now more than ever.

For several years I had been struggling with the issue of holiness. It was not that I didn't believe in a second work. My problem was with the people I had encountered, many of whom sat in seminary along side me, who testified of the experience openly, but in secret, when the "masks" were off, struggled with sin just as much as people who didn't believe in the work of holiness. I guess what disturbed me most is that, the more I saw this in others, the more I determined in myself to live a holy life. Yet the more I tried to be holy, the more I found myself lying at the feet of Jesus in failure. I was convinced that when I failed, it wasn't because God hadn't sanctified me, but because I had not spent enough time in prayer or the Word. Every time the Lord renewed me, I would rise more determined than ever to be the man God wanted me to be.

This continued cycle of failure, victory and resolve, led me to the place

of desperation I found myself in as I drove down highway 36, two months ago. I had been dealing with attitudes in my life that I knew were not pleasing to God, but no matter how often I "consecrated" them to Him in prayer, I continually found myself repenting of them.

So alone in my car I began to have a very honest conversation with God. "Father," I said, "I am tired of this and I don't know what to do." Then I said, "It's not that I don't trust You; I trust You completely. The problem is that I don't trust myself."

Then, in the secret places of my heart I heard God say, "And that, my son, has been your problem your entire Christian walk. You have trusted in your prayers of consecration and your ability to commit yourself to me to make you and keep you Holy. I know you believe I can do it. What I'm asking now is do you believe that I will do it?"

Then it happened. As my heart answered, "Yes Lord, I believe." The Holy Spirit descended upon my car, and somewhere between Rockville and Danville, I encountered the living God in His sanctifying and liberating power! In an instant, the war was over. Attitudes I had unsuccessfully strived so hard to conquer, He destroyed with no effort. Battles I had fought my entire life, He ended without lifting a finger. For the first time in my life, I knew the meaning of the words, "If the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free." This happened on a Wednesday. The preceding Monday morning, God had awakened me to tell me that He wanted me to preach on entire sanctification the following Sunday. Little did I know that He was planning to use me as the illustration.

So what is different now? Prior to this encounter, my beliefs about holiness, though sound theologically, were based on what I had been taught and what I had been told I must have experienced. I had studied this doctrine throughout scripture and could effectively argue its biblical soundness and validity. I had prayed prayers of consecration to God and, though I didn't feel sanctified, had accepted "by faith" that God must have done the work. And so, I had gotten up from the altar many times intensely determined to live the life of holiness.

Now I realize that this is something that we are unable to do but that God is more than willing to do if we let Him. He does sanctify, but not because we have prayed the right prayers, spent hours on our knees or had the strength to conquer temptation. He sanctifies because He promised us He would. Our part is to present ourselves as a sacrifice, but it is God who wields the knife.

Does this mean that I am perfect? I would like to say yes, but you may talk to my wife and find out otherwise. No, it means that I am dead. Do I have the strength to live a holy life? I repeat; I am dead! Dead people don't have anything. Nor do they do anything. The life I live, I live in Christ through the Holy Spirit. The strength in me is not me it is God. Does temptation still knock on my door? You better believe it does! But now it is the Holy Spirit who answers and not me. And trust me, He is far more effective in dealing with temptation than I was.

Why do I write this? I write this to those who, like myself, have struggled with the doctrine of holiness their entire Christian walk; struggled, not because they didn't believe it, but because they have hungered for it so much that in their desperation to reconcile what they believe with how they live, they have stopped short of the actual experience. Instead, they have settled for a holiness based on human effort and "spiritual acts" performed under the guise of faith and not on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Let me assure you, the experience is real! I have come to know in a new way the truth of that familiar chorus,

"There is a river that flows from deep within.

There is a fountain that frees the soul from sin."

There is freedom unlike any you have ever known! There is a work of grace that makes the heart content and ends the war of the soul! There is a **living** God who in one second can shatter chains you have spent your life trying to free yourself from! Not only **can** He do it, but He **wants** to do it, and He **will** do it! And believe me, 'If the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free!'

Our congratulations go out to Pastor Chet on receiving a three year Master of Divinity Degree from the Houston School of Theology. May God continue to keep His hand on Pastor Todd in the days ahead.

LINCOLN TRAIL CHRISTIAN TECH

Lincoln Trails Christian Tech, while functioning as a General Contractor in Industrial Commercial and Residential projects, is a non-profit educational corporation. Their goal is to provide quality, dependable service at a competitive price, while using the work-site to train their apprentice workers who are in an internship with Lincoln Trail Christian Tech and their fully qualified instructors.

Graduates of Lincoln Trails Christian Tech typically become strong supporters in a local church setting. They are taught to approach challenges with faith and expertise. Financially their support is stronger because their productivity is greater.

For more information regarding Lincoln Trail Christian Tech, you can contract Rev. Jonathan Carter at 812-347-3335 or e-mail: LincolnTrailsTech@peoplepc.com.

Pastors Wives Retreat

October 4th & 5th, 2004
 Gasthof —Retreat Center
 Montgomery, IN
 Guest Speaker:
 Dr. Ann Decker



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 AUGUST 2004

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Pictures above are the delegates that represented our district at the Conference, which was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in June.

59 Churches Paid 100% Stewardship

The following fifty-nine churches paid their **District Budget** in full for the 2003-2004 conference year-

Bicknell	Greensburg	Shelbyville Westside
Birdseye	Holton	Simpson Chapel
Bloomfield Southside	Hope	Somerville
Bloomfield Mt. Calvary	Lewis Creek	Sullivan
Bloomfield Mt. Zion	Marengo	Sylvania
Bloomington Central	Martinsville	Terre Haute Faith
Blue River	Martinsville Bethel	Terre Haute Hulman
Brazil	Mecca	Street
Clear Fork	Medora	Trafalgar
Columbus Bethel	Milan	Versailles
Columbus Central	Mitchell	Walker Chapel
Columbus Flintwood	North Vernon	Washington Main
Columbus Ohio Street	Otwell	Street
Concord	Petersburg	Wesley Chapel
Corydon	Prairie Creek	Westport
East Enterprise	Rising Sun	West Terre Haute 6 th
Evansville Forrest Hills	Rushville	Street
Evansville North Park	Salem	West Terre Haute 8 th
Evansville Trinity	Seymour	Street
French Lick	Shelburn	Whitehall
Gnaw Bone	Shelbyville Grace	Wilmington Hills

G.L.A.D. Sunday

The D.B.A. approved designating **August 22, 2004** as G.L.A.D. Sunday across our district. We are asking for each pastor to promote the G.L.A.D. program on this Lord's Day. God is helping us, but we still have a ways to go to reach our goal of having 300 G.L.A.D. members. Remember, every penny pledged is sent directly to pay the debt. We don't even keep money from the fund to buy postage stamps. It is a worthy cause, why don't you join today?

As Dr. Earle Wilson said, "Join with those who have already committed themselves to support Orleans Camp, you are investing in a work that will outlast us all."

Ministerial Class

A reminder that there will be classes at the Paoli Wesleyan Church on Saturday October 16 and Saturday Oct. 30, dealing with the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). Contact Rev. Bob England at bob-e-sr-47424@yahoo.com for a syllabus and more information. These classes will be taught by Dr. Mark Eckart. Everyone is invited to register and attend.



40 Years of Service

Rev. Gordon Tilley, Rev. Ira Holt, Rev. Ray Ferren, and Rev. George Blice are pictured here with the three General Superintendents. These pastors were recognized at General Conference for having 40 years of service in The Wesleyan Church.



REGISTRATION FOR BYF RETREAT

September 8-11, 2004
Wesleyan campground, Orleans, IN
Cost: \$40.00 per person

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ No. Attending _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Will pay at retreat \$ _____

Will need a room _____ Have cottage on ground _____

Have trailer or RV _____

Mail to: Philo Jones
6739 E Speed Rd
Milltown, IN 47145



Return this form as soon as possible, so we will know how many to plan for.

Bring something for the auction. This helps keep the cost down.

It is also a great fun time. Thanks.

Dinning Hall Gets New Doors!

Thanks to Rev. Jonathan Carter and the Lincoln Trails Christian Tech, the dining room at the camp has a new look this year! This was a generous donation amounting to approximately \$3,500.00. Pictured above are Rev. Carter and his son, Jon standing in front of the dining hall. A special thanks to them for the donation and for doing the installation.

CHURCH GROWTH REPORT

Church	Pastor	June SS '04	June SS '03	Variation	% Gain	AM	PM	Wk	Day
Austin	K. Wingham	19	14	5	36%	22	17	10	
Bedford	G. Tilley	29	22	7	32%	45	25	17	
Bicknell First	M. Reed	45	37	8	22%	55	24	67	
Birdseye	D. Murphy	16	16	0	0%	0	0	0	
Bloomfield Mt. Calvary	F. Collings	NR							
Bloomfield Mt. Zion	B. Grunden	33	51	18	0%	33	17	10	
Bloomfield Southside	D. Sparks	NR							
Bloomington Central	E. Hayes	58	30	28	93%	58	30	29	
Bloomington Shepherd	B. Colburn	0	0	0	0%	17	13	17	
Blue River	A. Marshall	20	20	0	0%	37	12	0	
Boonville	E. Ames	23	NR	0	0%	40	22	13	
Brazil Jackson Street	E. Stewart	38	46	8		43	20	16	
Carthage New Life	H. Smith	NR							
Clear Fork	R. Hottle	14	13	1	8%	22	11	11	
Columbus Bethel	B. Carpenter	0	0	0	0%	18	10	0	
Columbus Central	B. Miller	NR							
Columbus Flintwood	W. Jones	NR							
Columbus Ohio Street	J. Vandervort	42	54	12	0%	49	40	32	
Concord	T. Whitham	28	30	2	0%	32	26	20	
Connersville Grandview	R. Wallace	NR							
Corydon New Hope	T. Bye	20	17	3	18%	54	24	15	
E. Enterprise	R. Albring	15	17	2	0%	17	16	16	
Edinburgh	L. Biddle	39	43	4	0%	39	27	17	
English	P. Jones	71	76	5	0%	75	50	57	
Evansville Forest Hills	M. Stoelting	142	148	6	0%	262	119	113	
Evansville North Park	M. Linville	56	49	7	14%	76	25	12	
Evansville Trinity	E. Freels	50	54	4	0%	82	28	55	
Fort Branch	M. Hughes	16	22	6	0%	19	15	15	
Franklin	D. Neal	NR							
French Lick SV	J. Moffatt	69	52	17	33%	110	54	45	
Gnaw Bone	G. Armstrong	24	20	4	20%	26	50	51	
Greenfield	J. Anderson	18	16	2	13%	23	26	11	
Greensburg	W. Thompson III	37	35	2	6%	46	14	11	
Greenwood	J. Hughes	NR							
Helmsburg	D. Pfaff	0	0	0	0%	10	0	0	
Holton	W. Vandervort	23	22	1	5%	26	8	8	
Hope First	E. Boston	24	16	8	50%	25	13	35	
Lawrenceburg	K. Mouser	NR							
Lewisville Trinity	C. Stroud	NR							
Lewis Creek	D. Gates	13	nr	0	0%	25	0	13	
Loogootee Mt. Zion	J. Simmons	NR							
Madison Calvary	M. Mahoney	29	44	15	0%	46	36	23	
Marengo Valley	S. Lock	62	59	3	5%	120	53	37	
Martinsville	K. Kearby	NR							
Martinsville Bethel	J. Irvin	8	11	3	0%	13	0	7	
Mecca New Life	C. Todd	NR							
Medora	C. Morgan	50	48	2	4%	42	18	14	
Milan	TBS	26	28	2	0%	37	18	0	

Church	Pastor	June SS '04	June SS '03	Variation	% Gain	AM	PM	Wk	Day
Mitchell	S. Jones	109	108	1	1%	210	160	129	
Mooresville New Life	M. Linville	23	30	7	0%	40	15	16	
Morgantown Emmaus	T. Kelley	12	9	3	33%	15	0	0	
New Albany Community DBA		NR							
New Albany Spring Ave.	N. Watters	NR							
North Vernon	J. Terry	42	NR	0	0%	59	39	0	
Orleans	H. Carr	NR							
Otwell	H. Leehe	111	35	96		121	40	0	
Paoli	L. Manship	182	182	0	0%	348	185	197	
Petersburg	L. Lamar	11	12	1	0%	11	0	0	
Poplar Grove	J. Downes	13	18	5	0%	32	13	8	
Prairie Creek	T. Fennell	19	16	3		23	15	14	
Princeton	D. Reed	49	49	0	0%	60	39	52	
Rising Sun	R. McCreary	NR							
Rodney	M. Miller	18	10	8	80%	30	21	11	
Rushville	H. Baker	NR							
Salem	C. Johnson	11	12	1	0%	18	14	10	
Sandford	C. Hedden	8	15	7	0%	8	6	5	
Scott City	D. Ault	NR							
Scottsburg	P. Mills	11	9	2	22%	13	10	10	
Seelyville	F. Burk, Jr.	15	22	7	0%	11	0	7	
Seymour	I. Holt	26	30	4	0%	39	26	25	
Shelburn	D. Ault	NR							
Shelbyville Grace	M. Chambers	57	57	0	0%	73	47	21	
Shelbyville Westside	W. Seymour	NR							
Simpson Chapel	R. Brown	7	NR	0	0%	7	0	0	
Somerville	D. Brandon	52	25	27		51	45		
Spearsville	L. Collins	40	0	0	0%	40	24	23	
Spencer - Emanuel		NR							
Sullivan	Glaurimier	NR							
Sylvania	B. England	72	73	1	0%	116	48	28	
Terre Haute Faith	D. Gormong	135	141	6	0%	232	186	203	
Terre Haute Hulman	D. Willis	67	82	15	0%	97	44	31	
Terre Haute North	V. Reed	NR							
Trafalgar	C. Hilton	5	9	4	0%	5	3	5	
Valeene	D. Manship	NR							
Versailles	D. Jewell	46	29	17	59%	47	19	13	
Walker Chapel	R. Hendershot	NR							
Washington Main St.	P. Kessen	39	39	0	0%	60	42	20	
Washington Vincennes	J. Gilley	27	NR	0	0%	26	34	18	
Wesley Chapel	P. Kirk	NR							
Westport	D. Knapp	72	77	5	0%	72	41	22	
West Terre Haute 6th	B. Weeks	NR							
West Terre Haute 8th	P. Shelton	67	52	15	29%	68	45	37	
Wheatland	K. Mitchell	NR							
Whitehall	D. Campbell	29	37	8	0%	26	11	13	
Wilmington Hills	D. Meriwether	23	26	3	0%	23	20	11	
TOTALS		2335	2192	143	7%	3387	1933	1696	

Top Ten Churches for Numerical Gain for June 2004

Church	Pastor	Gain	Church	Pastor	Gain
Bloomington Central (E. Hayes)		28	Hope First (E. Boston)		8
French Lick Springs Valley (J. Moffatt)		17	Bicknell First (M. Reed)		8
Versailles (D. Jewell)		17	Bedford (G. Tilley)		7
West Terre Haute 8th Street (P. Shelton)		15	Evansville North Park (M. Linville)		7
Rodney (M. Miller)		8	Austin (K. Wingham)		5

Top Ten Percentage Gain for June 2004

Church	Pastor	% Gain
Bloomington Central (E. Hayes)		93%
Rodney (M. Miller)		80%
Versailles (D. Jewell)		59%
Hope First (E. Boston)		50%
Austin (K. Wingham)		36%
French Lick Springs Valley (J. Moffatt)		33%
Morgantown Emmaus (T. Kelley)		33%
Bedford (G. Tilley)		32%
West Terre Haute 8th Street (P. Shelton)		29%
Bicknell First (M. Reed)		22%