

From the desk of ...

New Year's resolutions, do you make them? They are so often broken that we joke about them. Still, it is a good thing to assess ourselves and set some goals concerning the direction in which we'd like our lives to move.

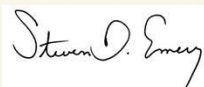
It is said that there are three basic themes to life:

- The first is growth. Children and young people are actively involved in growth—physically, mentally, socially and hopefully spiritually.
- The second is maintenance. This is how we live when we seek to be as free of change, as we possibly can be. It is the life of "status quo." The slogan of this style of life is: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Many people live out their lives at this level.
- People who make the most difference are those who discipline themselves to continued growth.

Years ago, the therapist, W.H. Sheldon, observed the average person, after age 40, allows his mind to deaden and begins to waste his hours. He saw the average adult person choosing repetition over imagination.

Ministry can be performed in a repetitive way, rather than a fresh way. I'm reminded of the story of a female school teacher in her 50s who was passed over in the selection of a new principal for her school. Instead, a young woman in her late 20s was chosen. The older woman charged into the office of the Superintendent of Schools and protested, "I'll have you know that I have taught in this system for over 30 years." The Superintendent corrected her, saying, "No, you have not taught 30 years. You have taught one year, 30 times."

I hope that isn't true of our ministries. I wonder if there are not some new directions for our ministry, some new challenges we ought to take on. God save us from growing old in our ways and focusing on procedure rather than progress. I'm praying He will bless us with anticipation and make us mature but not old.



COMING UP...

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Jan 11 | Human Trafficking Awareness Day |
| Jan 11 | DBA Meeting |
| Jan 22 | Sanctity of Human Life Sunday |
| Jan 27-29 | WY Winter Retreat |
| Feb 7 | DBMD Meeting |
| Feb 25 | Children's Ministries, HUDDLE |

"...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things that are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV

MUSINGS

INDIANA CENTRAL DISTRICT

EVENTS:

- **January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day - please see important letter from Mrs. Martha Blackburn below**
- **January 27-29, WY Winter Retreat 2012**
Great Wolf Lodge, Cincy
Speaker: Rick Rucker
Worship Leader: Josh Jessup
Early Bird Registration - Dec 21
Check out the ICD WY website for details, www.icdyouth.com
- **February 16-18, FUEL Live, Wesleyan Youth Leaders' Gathering, Louisville, KY,**
The Galt House, \$75 Flat Fee includes lodging & registration
Teacher: @Kyle Idleman (notafan.com)
House Band: A-Town A-List (@atownalist)
Register at www.wesleyanyouth.com

2012 Easter Offering

This year the General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth is asking every Local Board of Administration to set aside a gift of at least \$150 or more to send to E&CG during the month of April. For churches wanting to invite individuals to contribute personally, the department will provide downloadable artwork for media presentations or bulletin inserts. However, they will not be sending materials and envelopes as in the past. Pastors will receive two mailings and two gifts in early 2012:

1. An invitation to participate and a coupon for a free *Perfect Blend* DVD training kit (\$65 value) with everything a local church needs to start a personal evangelism training class.
2. An offering reminder, response envelope and new book, *Game Plan for Intentionally Missional Ministry*, which coaches readers through seven steps to develop a missional game plan for their ministry.

The Easter Offering is about working together to multiply healthy churches and Christ-followers.

Upcoming: Game Plan Training Camp—for Church Planters and Courageous Ministry Leaders, March 13-15

CALENDAR ITEMS:

(The entire District Calendar is available on the district website, www.indianacentral.org, on the *Calendar* page.)

-Jan 8, DS @ Tipton Trinity, 10a
-Jan 10, Children's Ministries mtg, 6p
-Jan 11, Nat'l Human Trafficking Awareness Day
-Jan 11, DBA mtg, 9a
-Jan 16, Office Closed, MLK Day
-Jan 27-29, WY Winter Retreat
-Jan 29, Children's Ministries Bible Quizzing, 2p
-Feb 5, DS @ Greenfield Brown's Chapel, 10:30a
-Feb 7, DBMD mtg, HQ, 3Central, 9a
-Feb 12, DS @ Noblesville Lakeview Drive, 10:30a
-Feb 19, DS @ Tipton Ash Street, 10:20a
-Feb 20, Office Closed, Presidents' Day
-Feb 25, CM HUDDLE, IWU-Marion
-Feb 26, DS @ Lafayette Schuyler Avenue, 10:45a
-Mar 3, Optimal Stewardship Summit-3
-Mar 6, DBMD, HQ, 3Central, 9a
-Mar 13, CM mtg, New Castle
-Mar 13-15, E&CG GAME PLAN, HQ
-Mar 18, CM Bible Quizzing

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday materials - visit www.sohls.org

DID YOU KNOW ...

★2012 FLAME classes in Frankfort, Indiana:

March 12-16, registration deadline Feb 24
(*Sociology, Introduction to Theology, Expository Preaching, New Testament Bible Elective, Psychology, Old Testament Bible Elective, Pastoral Counseling, Christian Education*)

August 6-10, registration deadline July 20
(*Wesleyan History/Discipline, General Church History, Pastoral Counseling, Global/Intercultural Ministries, Evangelism/Church Health, Doctrine of Holiness, Pastoral Ministries, New Testament Bible Elective*)

★**POWER RALLY, June 29 & 30 - mark your calendars - you don't want to miss it! (District Conference June 28—day before the Power Rally)**

Speaker: Rev. John Ott
Pastor, Roanoke, VA Parkway Wesleyan Church
Worship Leader: Rev. Johnnie Blair, Jr.
Pastor, Muncie Memorial Drive Church

Provided free of charge by the General Church:

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE

To schedule, contact Wayne Derr at:
derrw@wesleyan.org or 800.627.2537

Resources are available

- 3-hour financial & estate planning workshop for developing financial roadmap & living the generous life, now & after you pass. Personally discuss needs with the opportunity to create a will or revocable living trust through estate planning attorney. Legacy giving is vital to health of your church & district. Last ten years, local Wesleyan churches have received \$32 million+ through bequest provisions written into estate planning documents.
- Pastors: Conduct sermons on stewardship - vital to the believer & their walk with Christ. How a person handles their money & possessions is an indicator of faith in Christ, the giver & provider of all we have.

DEBRA'S OFFICE STUFF ...

- **Developing Church Reports Reminder:** You are reporting for the PREVIOUS month
- **Using The Online Forms:** Please:
 - Do not add "Wesleyan Church" to your church name
 - Do not add punctuation (commas, dashes) after your community name (ex: Elwood Central)
 - Do not use all caps
 - Do not add titles or initials to your name (use first/last names only)
- **New Staff Members** - we were introduced to several new church staff members at the Minister/Spouse Christmas Banquet - **pastors, please make sure we have their name and email address** - we can add them to the *Journal* and make sure they get the ICD mailings - you/they can use the "Current Info Update" online form on the website (Report Forms page)
- **PLEASE check the ICD Calendar BEFORE booking your 2012 church events**
- **DECEMBER Growth Points** available on the Musings Page of the website.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **PRAYER PRAISE:** Revs. José and Altagracia López have had their VISA approved for another 2.5 years! Thank you for your prayers and support for Iglesia Wesleyana Amistad Cristiana in Carmel.
- Rev. Creston Eckart is recuperating from a bleeding ulcer procedure midst the ongoing chemo-therapy treatments for cancer which leaves him in a very weak condition.
- Chad Moorer, teenage son of Rev. Charles Moorer, Jr., pastor of our Indianapolis Divine Direction Christian Church, is receiving chemotherapy for kidney cancer. Pray for physical and spiritual strength as he moves toward full health.
- Continued recovery healing for: Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot, Mrs. SueAnn Boss, Mrs. Naomi Boss, Mrs. Jenny Johnson, Mrs. Rowina Kirk, Mr. Mark Miller, Mrs. Patty Trent.
- Pray for Doug and Lori Slack, pastor of Tipton Trinity, as they continue to raise funds for their new ministry as missionaries to Cambodia ... invite them to your church ... give your people an opportunity to pledge their prayer and financial support for this wonderful family taking on this new challenge!

PASTOR REQUEST...

We need to upgrade our church computers.

If there are any churches in the district who might be upgrading their computers and would like to sell their current computers at a reasonable price (that are at least running Windows XP) we would like to be made aware of it.

My contact info:

Rev. George Martin, Jr.
The Sanctuary Church, Indianapolis
317.686.1985, office
317.250.1590, cell
317.329.2856, home
pastor.martin@sanctuarych.org

MUSINGS

INDIANA CENTRAL DISTRICT

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

Pastors and Congregations of Indiana Central Wesleyan Churches,

Because more people are enslaved today than ever before in our history, I am writing to you about a prayer opportunity for you and your church. **Wednesday, January 11, 2012, has been declared National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.** Churches are being encouraged to designate a time and place where you invite people to come and pray about this horrible issue. Every state in our country has cases of young children being enslaved against their will and used as sex slaves. In fact, government statistics tell us the number of slaves in our country is in the hundreds of thousands and more are added each year.

Most of you have a prayer service at your church during the week and many on 'Wednesdays. It would be wonderful if you would pray specifically about human trafficking either during a designated time and place or during your regular service. **The focus of your prayer time could include the following:**

- **Protection, rescue and recovery of victims**
- **Prayer for those causing harm**
- **Prayer for the protection, power and ability of law enforcement**
- **Prayer for our government legislators and judicial system as they enact laws against human trafficking**

In Isaiah 59:16 we are told God was appalled when there was no one to intervene. God instructs us of the importance and privilege of prayer. This is something we can all do—**WE CAN PRAY!**

Thank you for your promotion of this special prayer day. If you have questions or need further information, please feel free to call our office, ww@wesleyan.org, 317.774.7976.

Martha Blackburn, General Director
Wesleyan Women

MUSINGS

www.indianacentral.org

Last March, our family joined Global Partners and I became the Missionary Director to Cambodia. While continuing to pastor in Tipton, we are building a team of supporters. We invite your church to join our team and start a new ministry on the other side of the world. We want you to consider "The Slacks" to be your Missionaries...going where you can't go to share the gospel. We need churches and individuals to pledge whatever God lays on their hearts. As supporters, you will receive monthly updates about the Cambodia ministry and receive opportunities for your church to participate in short-term teams to work alongside the Cambodian Church.

Send us an email, dougnlorislack@gmail.com or call us, 317.385.7511, to learn more about how your prayers and financial support can impact others for Christ around the world!

—Pastor Doug & Lori Slack, Tyler, Nate & Drew

*Download the **Slacker Tracker** from the *Musings Page* on the website, www.indianacentral.org

