

District Executive Report

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
I will tell of your wonderful deeds.” Psalms 9:1

We have so much to be thankful for because we have been given so much: life, bodies, and abilities. What God has given us is to be held in trust. The implications of this trust are to be accountable to God for all that has been entrusted to us, and we are to be accountable to each other for our faithfulness to God. The unique skills and creative abilities of each of us are woven into the fabric of our life together as the body of Christ.

Our congregations are also blessed with a variety of leaders who help sustain the ministry of the local church. The district is also blessed with many volunteers who serve on committees and travel many miles to share their gifts and talents to the wider church. On numerous occasions I have been astounded by the amount of time and energy people give to one project or another within our congregations and district. Many people simply “do wonderful deeds” behind the scenes without a lot of recognition or appreciation for the endless hours of service and ministry.



All Ministers Retreat class on Emotional Intelligence

My travels in the district indicate to me that every person and congregation has a contribution to make to enrich our witness to the world. I have received numerous blessings from pastors and congregations as I meet and worship with you. The nature of my involvement with congregations varies. As my schedule allows, I attend special events, anniversary celebrations, ordination and licensing services or occasional pulpit supply. Most of my energy has been devoted to assisting and coaching pastors and congregations about their

relationship. The rest of my time is consumed with meetings, consultations, telephone conversations, e-mails and spending time “in the air” or traveling in my car. Not too long ago, someone said to me, “I don’t think moss grows under your feet.” But, to be honest, I haven’t looked.



Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH) orientation: Spanish language training for licensed ministers

My ministry has been further blessed by the supportive staff of Joe Vecchio, Administrative Assistant, and Brenda Perez, Secretary. Both Joe and Brenda are dedicated employees who often go beyond what is expected from their position. A new person to our staff is Dawna Welch, Director of Youth, who will not be very visible at this District Conference because she will be working with our youth. Dawna is off to a great start and I am quite sure that you will begin to see or hear more about her activities as she leads our district youth program. At this point, I believe we have the right people in the right seats.

Further reflection: Not too long ago I was invited to participate in a “pots and pans” party. The purpose of the party was to entice people to buy new and better pots and pans. Since I enjoy cooking and since I was in the market to replace my dented and hospice care pots and pans, I decided to accept the invitation. When I entered the room the smell of delicious foods permeated the air. The food demonstrator had prepared a wide variety of “finger food” appetizers for us to taste. It was stated that she used the best and greatest pots and pans on the planet to prepare the food.

As we looked upon the table and just before we were invited to taste, the food demonstrator said, “There are three rules for eating this food and they are:

- Number one: No double dipping;
- Number two: No reverse scooping; and
- Number three: Don’t yuk someone’s yum.”

I now call this “The Yuk Factor” and it is the line we don’t cross when we experience something or someone we don’t like.

We are living in an intense time for the Church of the Brethren. Many church leaders are experiencing “The Yuk Factor” at some level. We, the Church of the Brethren, are so very diverse; and at times, even contradictory. We often clash over cultural differences, music preferences, peace witness, leadership styles, women in ministry, and a plethora of issues including the color of the new carpet in the sanctuary. Sometimes I want to shout, “Don’t yuk someone’s yum.”

What you need to know is that I personally enjoy the differences within the Pacific Southwest District. I think our differences are our greatest blessing. I believe that we are called to live on this planet and to help make this a better place to be.

I also believe that we have the right people in the right chairs. At this District Conference, take some time to look around and make new friends. I think you will experience some of the most caring and creative people to walk this earth. I am thankful for this extraordinary time. It is a time for people to hear the Good News message of hope, healing, international and interpersonal peace, and an authentic witness to a vibrant faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ and his Church. May we covenant with one another to pray for God’s direction and truth for the Church of the Brethren.

Don Booz

District Executive Minister

District Youth Advisor Report

I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling and meeting with Youth and Pastors of the PSWD. Eight wonderfully creative and energized youth have been called to serve on the Youth Cabinet. Their names and congregations are:

- Robert Burke - Bakersfield
- Tuesday Thornton - La Verne
- Maya Davis - La Verne
- Kyle Carothers - Circle of Peace, AZ
- Rehana Franklin - Modesto
- Senna Akpovi - Modesto
- Michael Terry - Live Oak
- Mollie Montgomery - Bakersfield

Working with the newly formed Youth Cabinet has been its own reward. We held our first meeting/retreat at the end of August in Bakersfield, CA. During our time together we planned opportunities for Youth at District Conference, designed a District Youth logo and scheduled our next meeting to plan a district-wide Spring Fling!

Youth attending the 2011 District Conference, will gather and meet in the Youth Lounge for fellowship, study and fun! Housing arrangements have been made for Senior High

Youth at the La Verne Church of the Brethren, but all other activities and meals will include Junior High Youth.

The Youth Cabinet will be present at District Conference and can be identified by specially designed t-shirts. I hope you will take the time to introduce yourself and get to know our new PSWD leaders!

Respectfully submitted,
Dawna Welch

left to right, back to front

Youth Cabinet 2011 / 2012



Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

70 Years

William G. Willoughby

50 Years

Elvis C. Cayford
Marlin L. Heckman
William B. Wash

40 Years

Glenn J. Frazier
John Grindler Katonah

25 Years

Bryan L. Boyer
Ron E. H. Faus
John Jackson
Monty Keeling
Carol A. Wise

—
**Representing 215 years
of service.**
—

Deceased Ministers

Loren S. Bowman - 6/17/11
Donald W. Clague – 3/20/2011



Evening at the All Ministers Retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona