

It is my **privilege to share with you my first report** as the **District Superintendent** of the Southwest Indiana District Church of the Nazarene.

As I begin this report, I want to express my deep appreciation to **Dr. Gustavo Crocker**, our **jurisdictional General Superintendent**, and his wife, **Rachel**. I have found Dr. Crocker to be a man of **godly wisdom, compassion, insight and strong leadership**.

**As a district**, we want to thank you for your guidance these past two years. On a personal note, **it has been a joy to begin to do life with you. I will not forget that first early morning phone call from you nor the many occasions in which you have spoken into my life.** Thank you for doing so!

**Sandi Miller**, our **office manager** has faithfully served God and our district and we are blessed by her expertise, gentle spirit and godly concern. Thanks also to **Teri Richardson** who has continued to assist Sandi even though she officially submitted her resignation months ago.

**Gary Ritter**, our new District Treasurer, has been a blessing both to our district and our individual churches and their treasurers. This year, **Lynne Speer** passed the baton to him after serving our district for 15 years. Thank you both for your excellent work.

**Rev. David Warren**, our District Secretary, is truly one of the best in our denomination. His attention to detail is superb and he seasons his work with love, wisdom and care.

**We have three of the greatest departmental leaders anywhere.** **Rita Stanley** has been a wonderful **District NMI President** for the past three years.

**Under her leadership our churches have given \$540,817 to the World Evangelism Fund which is 113.6 %.** We also have given \$351,972 for approved specials. **Way to go SWID!** Recently, Rev. Trevor and Rita Stanley accepted a call to a church on the Indianapolis District. We will truly miss them!

**Rev. Mark Thompson is amazing!** We are fortunate to have him leading our NYI. **Innovative, thoughtful, organized and always helpful**-these are just a few of the adjectives that come to mind when I think of Mark.

Just a couple of weeks ago, our NYI completed an outstanding Youth Camp. Our NYI is making a huge difference on our district!

**Dr. James Hicks, who guides our SDMI** across the district, has such a strong love and passion for discipleship which is exactly what we need today. Under his leadership, our SDMI attendance increased by 49 people with an average of 4,922. **Great days are ahead as we make Christ-like disciples.**

**Words of appreciation are not enough for our District Advisory Board as they have demonstrated great patience as we have spent countless hours together doing the work of the district and the Kingdom of God!**

Thank you: **Steve Deckard, P.J. Doerner, Doug Jones, Tim Scott, Dr. Mark Fleschner, Rev. Jane Muncie, Rev. Darin Nossett, Rev. Brian Rogers and Rev. David Warren** for all you have done this year.

I want to recognize and thank **Dr. Mark Fleschner** who has chosen to take a well deserved break from serving on the Advisory Board after many years of distinguished service.

**I also want to express my gratitude to Dr. Garry Pate, District Superintendent Emeritus, and his precious wife, Carolyn, for their love, encouragement, and assistance. I also desire to express my appreciation for every pastor, staff member, church board member and faithful church attender.** Keep up the good work of the Lord!

Lastly, I want to thank my wife, **Cindy** for all of these great years together. All either of us ever wanted was an opportunity to serve God and we have had many opportunities. Through these many years, Cindy has touched countless lives with her love, compassion and service. What a blessing she is to all who do life with her.

**Over 60 years ago in a small northern Missouri community,** there was a small boy who lived on a farm a few miles from town. As a young child, he experienced what has to be one of the most pain wrenching experiences one could ever face in life-as his mother died.

**While growing up he learned many valuable lessons.** Integrity, compassion for others and a strong work ethic would come from those difficult years. **Sadly, this boy rarely went to church and knew very little about God but he sure did love sports.**

**As he entered his senior year of high school** the basketball coach asked if he was willing to play on the team. **This young man was thrilled at the prospect of doing so but had one insurmountable problem.** He had no way of getting home from practice since the bus that provided him with transportation would leave right after school. **So he told the coach he would love to but it was impossible.**

**Somehow the lady who owned the local Five and Dime store heard about this young man and his desire to play basketball.** Amazingly, she opened her home to him and all she asked was that he work in the Five and Dime store she owned for the room and board she would provide.

Upon entering the bedroom that first evening where this young man would stay throughout his senior year, **he discovered an open Bible for his very own laying on his bed. Remember, he rarely had gone to church and knew very little about God.**

**That day a seed was sown that would produce a harvest beyond anyone's imagination. On that day, a lady did more than just go to church. For whatever reason, she saw the mission field as being where she lived and rather than it being the responsibility of a professional, a pastor, she decided she could do something.**

As I think about what she did so long ago, **I realize there is no way this lady could ever have imagined the eternal ripples that came because of her willingness to take the love of Jesus outside the walls of the church and into the community where she lived.**

One person is all it took for the ripples of God's love to spread.

One person willing to sacrifice and to share what God had given to them.

As a result, person after person has been transformed by the grace, mercy and forgiveness of our Savior because of this one lady's obedience to God.  
**Her mission field was where she lived!**

**Today, I wish I could thank her for being missional.** She was missional before missional was cool or even a word in our vocabulary. I wish I had just one hour to tell her the difference she has made. Just one hour to tell her that it was worth it! For you see, she opened her home to a young man who would one day become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Upon graduating from high school, this young man moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he would begin to attend a church and there he would meet a young lady whom he would one day marry.**

From their love for one another would come two children. They would move to Morris, Illinois, where this young man would begin working for Caterpillar Tractor and there they would attend the Church of the Nazarene. This young man I have been talking about is my father. It was in the Church of the Nazarene in Morris, Illinois where I became a follower of Jesus Christ. It has been only recently that I had heard this story.

The lady who opened her home and heart to my father was Mabel Fear who is buried in Lancaster, Missouri. She was born on December 31, 1896 and died on September 26, 1985.

She was in her early 60's when she opened her home to my father.

**The ripples of obedience echo into eternity!**

If Mabel had just simply gone to church and never opened her home . . .  
If she had chosen to have never been inconvenienced . . .

If she would have said I have put in my years it is time for someone younger to do it . . .

I most likely would have never been born!

**Mabel saw the people who lived in Lancaster, Missouri as her mission field. Somehow she heard about a young man and she was willing to obey God! What about our mission field? Listen, our obedience to God can ripple into eternity.**

**Through the combined ministry of 75 organized churches, 2 Church-Type Missions (CTMs) and 3 Parent Affiliate Congregations (PACs), 589 people became followers of Jesus Christ.**

**182 people** were baptized and **255 New Nazarenes** were welcomed on the Southwest Indiana District. Our church membership stands at 8,249.

Our total church income was \$9,401,738 which is an increase of \$80,102 from last year. **Nineteen of our churches are Mission Ten Churches** which means **all funds were paid** in full plus 10% given for Missions.

**Mission Ten Churches**

Oakland City/Darin Nossett	33.40%
Shoals/Kevin Quinn	21.15%
Washington/George Johnson	20.77%
Boonville/Paul Gates	19.53%
Carbon/Larry Carr	15.88%
Odon/Trevor Stanley	14.99%
Springs Valley/Darrell Wineinger	14.58%
Petersburg/David Warren	14.53%
Evansville First/Chet Todd	13.88%
Freedom/Chris Breeden	13.76%
Vincennes First/Garret Sloan	13.75%
Mackey/Martin Hodge	12.99%
Peter's Switch/Keith Ross	12.27%
Georgetown/Don Walker	11.99%
Columbus First/Brian Rogers	11.27%
Spencer First/Gary Davey	11.19%
Kurtz/Floyd Fisher	11.10%
Brazil/Marlin Betts	10.06%
Sullivan/Juan Loreda	10.02%

### **Worship Attendance Increase**

The Point/Steve Greene	31
Mackey/Martin Hodge	27
Evansville Faith/Haitian/Cathy West/Jacques Estimphile	20
Rockport/Brett Cieslack	11
Shalom Hispanic/Javier D. Morante	10
Tell City/Charles Areson	6
Calvary Community Fellowship/Shane Rocker	5
Clarksville Parkwood/Sherman Beville	5
Columbus First/Brian Rogers	5
Newburgh/Dennis King	5
Sullivan/Juan Loredó	5

### **New Nazarenes**

The Point/Steve Greene	40
Mackey/Martin Hodge	18
Columbus First/Brian Rogers	13
Terre Haute First/Dr. Mark Fleschner	12
Bedford Davis Memorial/Restoration/Ken Bushey	11
Nashville Parkview /Stan Loutner	10
Bloomington First/Dr. James Hicks	9
Rockport/Brett Cieslack	8
Vincennes First/Garret Sloan	8
Zion Community/Andy Hughes	8

### **Conversions**

Point Township(Beyond The Walls PAC)/ Pastor Troy DeKemper	151
Columbus First/Brian Rogers	43
Bloomington First/Dr. James Hicks	38
The Point/Steve Greene	35
MTR Cowboy (CTM)/Doug Hanner	20
Rockport/Brett Cieslack	20
Owensville/Brad Delp	15
Patrickburg/Clarabelle Jukes	15
Mackey/Martin Hodge	13
Sullivan/Juan Loredó	13

### **Baptisms**

Crossroads Community/Mark Roberts	14
Mackey/Martin Hodge	13
Evansville First/Chet Todd	12
Nashville Parkview/Stan Loutner	12
Brazil/Marlin Betts	9
Rockport/Brad Cieslack	9
Bedford Davis Memorial-Restoration/Ken Bushey	8
Owensville/Brad Delp	8
Vincennes First/Garret Sloan	7
Columbus First/Brian Rogers	6
Salem/Ricky Main	6
Turning Point/Duane Brown	6

### **Education Fund**

**We gave 88.9% of 2.25% of our income (\$173,998) to the work of Christian Education.** This is one way we invest in our youth. **They are our church today as well as the leaders of tomorrow and one of the most effective ways of them staying connected to our churches is having them attend Olivet.**

Our giving increased from last year by \$3,308. **61 of our churches paid their apportionment to Olivet in full with 7 of these receiving district assistance.** This is a great beginning, SWID, and my prayer is we will begin paying 100% to this worthy endeavor.

### **Pension and Benefits Fund**

We gave 89.8% of 2.25% of our income (\$175,380) to the ministry of Pensions and Benefits. This fund was established to care for those who have already given their lives in service to the church and the Kingdom of God. There are many pastors and families who have sacrificed and invested in your life and now is our time to invest in theirs. 54 of our churches paid the Pension and Benefits Fund in full.

### **District Fund**

We gave 91.8% of 5% of our income (\$395,318) for the extension of the Gospel on the Southwest Indiana District. This was an increase of \$29,394 from the previous year. 54 of our churches paid the district fund in full. Way to go, SWID!

This year we began a process of remodeling and updating the District Office. Prior to my arrival a new phone system was installed in the office. We also have taken care of septic and drainage issues and replaced a leaking roof. Fortunately, our insurance covered the cost of this repair and with the help of Steve Deckard we were able to repair the inside and have a surplus which enabled us to carpet the office at almost no additional cost. We removed wallpaper and the office has been completely painted and Tim Scott has remodeled our restrooms.

A new website ([www.swidnazarene.org](http://www.swidnazarene.org)) was created and is helping us better equip and resource our local churches and pastors. A new SWID logo was created and our District Facebook page is waiting for you to like.

We hired our first **Olivet Ministerial Summer Intern, Ryan Manes** who is preaching regularly, conducting youth revivals, assisting in the office, helping at Children's Camp and much more.

Cindy and I conducted a **Listening Tour** across SWID by traveling the five Sunday evenings in October. This proved to be a wonderful time of getting to know pastors and lay people.

We trained **340 people in Organic Outreach** at Mackey and Valley Mission as we seek to install a new operating system focused on evangelism throughout the district. This training was in English and Spanish and the materials are available on our website. **I am encouraging every church to form an Outreach Influence Team and to read materials written by Kevin Harney.**

**Dr. Mark Lail** led a **School of Stewardship** for pastors, church board members and treasurers. We have also made it possible for the local church to submit payment for all apportionments on-line at the Funding The Mission website. We also held our first **DCPI (Dynamic Church Planting International) Training event** which assists those desiring to plant new churches and those who would like to assist them in that process. More training is coming our way!

A **District Employment Manual and District Nomination Policy** were created and approved by the District Advisory Board. We also approved the creation of a **SWID Missional Endowment Fund** that will enable us to more effectively fund the new things God will be asking us to do in the years ahead. We have implemented a background check program for our district licensed ministers and pastors and created a policy for Counting SDMI and Worship attendance. The **District Articles of Incorporation** were examined and changes were made with the assistance of Mark Bennett, our new district attorney.

We formed a **New Church Task Force** which has been given the mission of assisting the district in starting new endeavors through our district. We have created a **District Investment & Audit Committee** which will assist the district in its stewardship of finances and a **Bi-vocational Task Force** has been established to assist the District Superintendent in equipping and empowering those who serve the local church and yet work an additional job.

### **Our Present Landscape**

This year: 41 of our churches, CTMs and PACs reported 0 baptisms.  
38 of our churches, PACs and CTMs reported 0 New Nazarenes received.



19 of our churches, PACs and CTMs reported 0 conversions - - 32 reported one or less.

50 of our 75 organized churches experienced no growth or decline in worship attendance.

**Today there are still men and women, teenagers and boy and girls who do not know God and have hardly ever entered a place of worship.**

Twenty years ago, the USA/Canada region was declared a mission field. It is unbelievable to think that twenty years has passed. From the very beginning of our existence, Nazarenes have been passionate about evangelism and sharing the Gospel around the world.

We are holy people! We are Christian and yes, we are missional. We have faithfully given our money to the World Evangelism Fund and we have sent missionaries around the globe. In fact, some of the best and brightest from SWID have joined Extreme Nazarene and are doing great missional work outside the USA. It is amazing what God has done through our faithfulness.

**But it seems through the years that those of us within the United States have seen ourselves as being missional because we gave our money to that endeavor or we sent a young person from our district elsewhere.**

Yet all across the USA many of our churches are in decline or worse, closing. I wonder if part of the problem is that we we no longer see our communities, neighborhoods and places of work as the mission field. **Sadly, some have seen the call to holiness to be one in which they have separated from the very people Jesus has been calling us to all along.**

**So today, July 19, 2017, twenty years after the USA/Canada region became a mission field, I declare to you that the Southwest Indiana District is to be a NEW MISSION Field so that every pastor, staff member and attender of our churches knows that we have a mission here.**

This mission field is ripe unto harvest but the workers are few. Some are tired, frustrated and not even sure what to do any more. Therefore, I ask the Lord of the harvest to sent forth his workers into this field. **One person can make a difference.**

This year there were some signs of new beginning on our district. **Pastor Cathy West and the people of Evansville Faith helped birth a new Parent Affiliated Congregation (PAC) - our very First Haitian ministry on the district.** Brother Jacques and Rachel Estimphile are leading a great group of people and wonderful days are ahead. **God bless you, Pastor Cathy, and the fine people of our Evansville Faith Church.**

Another church and pastor I must mention is **Pastor Troy DeKemper** and the **missional folks of Point Township.** This church and pastor-their story unbelievable! Not long ago they formed the **Beyond the Walls Parent Affiliated Congregation under the leadership of Bryan Thompson, and along with guidance from Pastor DeKemper they are leading people to a Christlike life.** But rather than try to tell this amazing story watch this video.

We must begin to see ourselves as missionaries. We must cooperate with one another so that we may be more effective in ministering to the people God has given us. Churches helping churches is what we must do. Rather than thinking of ourselves, we must go out loving those around us.

I for one am not claiming that the current status which we find on our District to be the fault of our world or our country or even the rapidly changing culture. Rather, **I look in the mirror and take a portion of that responsibility.**

I would ask you to look in your spiritual mirror and with God's help ask Him to help you this coming year. **We have gotten comfortable and yet rigid. We have forgotten who we are as Nazarenes - we are holy - and that means that God's love is what oozes out of us.** We are Christian **with all of the ramifications that has with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ** (and those who are yet to know Him) **and we are missional!** We have forgotten those who have gone before us. **Yet, our past reminds us of what God has done before.**

**On August 25, 1948, Rev. Leo C. Davis was elected the first District Superintendent of the Southwest Indiana District.** At the first District Assembly he reported to the District that there were eight new organized churches with 150 new Nazarenes. The following year he reported that nine new churches were organized and in their third year another eight churches were organized for a total of 25 new churches within three years. Within seven years 34 new organized Nazarene churches were scattered across SWID.

During that first year as a district the NYPS purchased a 40 x 60 tent so that revivals could be held across Southwest Indiana and planned on buying two lots for the newly organized church in Tell City. That is who we have been! Our past reminds us what God has done.

### **Our Vision**

Can you imagine what might happen if our seventy-five churches and our PACs and CTMs would see Southwest Indiana as the NEW MISSION FIELD?

In some ways our vision should be like a 2 x 4. It's something we can use to build for the future but then again, maybe someone will need to use it in another way-to hit us upside the head to wake us up for what really matters.

**35 x 25** 35 new organized churches by 2025

**75 x 25** 75 new endeavors (PACs, CTMs, at least 4 Compassionate Ministries Centers, and Multi-sites or Multi-campus ministries and even organized churches by 2025.

**Where everyone sees themselves as a missionary.**

**Every church is a mission outpost helping those in their mission area and throughout Southwest Indiana and beyond. How about . . .**

**6 Hispanic churches  
2 Haitian churches  
2 African American churches**

**Where else might we begin planting and organizing churches?**

How about Bloomington with a population of at least 108,657 people where we presently have only 374 Nazarenes in three churches?

How about a ministry focused on IU Campus? Something that would enable a young couple or two to creatively minister and share the gospel? How about purchasing a building near that campus and remodeling it so we can rent out space for apartments but have a front area for ministry whether it is a coffee shop or whatever God places on someone's heart?

Or what about in Jefferson County with a minimum of 140,180 people where we presently have 4 churches with 350 Nazarenes?

Or our Evansville/Newburgh area where at least 200,768 people live and we have a worship average of 400 with our 7 active churches?

Or Terre Haute where at least 92,742 people live and we have three active churches with an attendance of 343?

What about a church in Scottsburg which has a population of 11,434?

Isn't it time we go back?

Or Mount Vernon 7,011 people,

Or Charlestown 6,921 people.

Or Clinton 6,425 people

Or Linton 5,822 people.

What about our larger churches moving to being multi-site focused or multi-campus? How about it Columbus First, Mackey, New Albany Christ's Community and The Point?

Imagine every pastor on SWID trained in CPC, Churches Planting Churches, NCD,-New Church Dynamics or CPE (Church Planting Essentials by 2020.

Every church praying for a Multiplication movement across SWID!

Imagine developing finances for the multiplication movement on SWID with emphasis on training, equipping and empowering those called of God to reach the lost. (SWID Supreme or SWID+)

Imagine every church planting a new church/PAC/CTM every five years and when a church birthed they would consider reproducing themselves within 5 years.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) Share with others your spiritual temperature for outreach and evangelism every thirty days and what you plan to do to increase it one degree.  
(Accountability among us all)
- 2) Vector a present activity or ministry that is presently focused on you and your church two degrees so it will reach and impact your mission field.

- 3) Every church should participate in the Nazarene Theological Seminary and Nazarene Bible College offerings. (36 churches this year partnered with NTS & NBC.) Pastors, this should be in your budget and at the very least you can take an offering. (NBC-October 1, 2017 NTS-January 28, 2018)
- 4) Every Church should Fund The Mission FULLY! That is 100% on WEF, P&B ONU, SWID.

We short-change the mission when we fail to Fund The Mission completely!

We have been playing defense too long. We have been afraid to challenge our people.

- 5) Become a SWID+ Church by giving beyond 100% of your District Apportionment!

All SWID+ Funds will be used for new plants, PACs, CTMs, multi-site ministry, Compassionate centers and creative ideas that will help us reach others for Christ. (This way regardless of a church's size or income can play a part.

- 6) Every church should have at least one person entering into ministry every three years. (Lay People called into ministry)
- 7) That we accept a new bare minimum for every church and pastor:

3 New Nazarenes, 3 people baptized, 3 people saved, and at least 3 people sanctified this coming year. We can do it and much more.

**"Our task as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to a world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to a world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion..."**

**I believe if we face the question, "If not now, then when?" If we are grasped by this vision we may also hear the question, "if not us, then who?" And if the gospel of Jesus is not the key to this task, then what is?"**

**N.T. Wright, The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is**

I close with the song we heard on Monday evening, Come Alive (Dry Bones) which is sung by Lauren Daigle. It expresses my hope and prayer for us.

Through the eyes of men it seems there's so much we have lost  
As we look down the road where all the prodigals have walked  
One by one the enemy has whispered lies  
And led them off as slaves

But we know that you are God yours is the victory  
We know there is more to come  
That we may not yet see  
So with the faith you've given us  
We'll step into the valley unafraid, yeah

As we call out to dry bones come alive, come alive  
We call out to dead hearts come alive, come alive  
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise  
We call out to dry bones, come alive

God of endless mercy God of unrelenting love  
Rescue every daughter bring us back the wayward son  
And by your spirit breathe upon them show the world that you alone can save  
You alone can save

As we call out to dry bones come alive, come alive  
We call out to dead hearts come alive, come alive  
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise  
We call out to dry bones come alive

So breathe, oh breath of God  
Now breathe, oh breath of God  
Breathe, oh breath of God now breathe  
Breathe, oh breath of God  
Now breathe, oh breath of God  
Breathe, oh breath of God, now breathe

As we call out to dry bones come alive, come alive  
We call out to dead hearts come alive, come alive  
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise  
We call out to dry bones, come alive  
We call out to dry bones, come alive  
Oh come alive

Written by Lauren Daigle and Michael Farren

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Timothy W. Crump  
Your District Servant