



# Tennessee News

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Tennessee Ministries of the Church of God  
L. Dwayne Pierce, State Minister

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Jan/Feb 2010

The Area Administrator's Retreat in January found us in sunny, but not so warm Orlando, Florida. In our first session Dr. Ron Duncan, General Director of the Church of God, voiced a deep concern from an aching heart. He stated that our church and all Wesleyan based groups are in spiritual warfare like we have never seen. Pastors and persons in key leadership positions in some of our churches are being trapped by Satan. Ministries and marriages are coming to an end at an alarming rate. Dr. Duncan was moved to tears as he expressed his concern for the spiritual wellbeing of the church. He stated that if Al Ells is correct in his surveyed information, 60% of Wesleyan based pastors are involved in pornography and struggle with sexuality. Could it be true that six out of ten of "our pastors" could be caught up in such a thing?

We must not assume that it could not be true or that it could not happen that any of us could fall into the trap. If we do not address spiritual matters, we are opening the door and inviting Satan in saying, *We are not going to do anything about it.* Dr. Duncan challenged us, *to get our heads out of the sand and not give up another soldier.*

I believe we must begin with our self, praying David's words, *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* We must allow God to remove anything that might be a stumbling block to our spiritual health. H. B. London said, *Satan will stay in the grass fifty years, waiting for a moment to take you down.* We must not give him a foothold. As holiness people we have a higher power through the Holy Spirit, but we must not forget that we live in a fallen world that is continually trying to pull us back into darkness.

Dr. Duncan said that the military adopted a policy that no one travels alone, they travel in an entourage. An army chaplain travels with two vehicles and five shooters. He said pastors and key leaders need an entourage so they don't become easy targets. He asked these questions I would ask you to consider: *Who is protecting you? Do you know your shooters? Who is praying for you? Who are you allowing to get near you?* If we wear the uniform we must stay vigilant. These matters of spiritual warfare must be an agenda item for us, because if leadership is taken out, Satan has a hay-day.

Spiritual warfare demands spiritual weapons. We must maintain a prayer team that builds walls of protection around us as pastors and leaders. We must surround ourselves with people who care deeply for the cause of the Church and her mission and who would be willing to lay down their lives rather than see their pastor/leader fail. We must recognize temptation in its modern form and be quick to say, *Get behind me Satan!* We must have courage to ask the hard questions of accountability, maintain a willingness to be asked and an honesty that keeps us pure in heart, mind and deed. We must fill our minds with the sanctifying truth of God's word and trust the Holy Spirit to give us an anointing so that we walk in His power. As members of the body of Christ we need and depend on each other.

Praying for a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,

*Dwayne*

## LifeSong Family Church News, Lewisburg

Recently the local newspaper in Lewisburg featured an article about the merger of LifeSong Family Church of Chapel Hill and Grace Church of Chapel Hill (an independent, non-denominational church). Following several months of prayer and conversation the two churches united as one under the direction of LifeSong Family Church in Lewisburg. Moving toward a plan to plant churches in Chapel Hill, Columbia, Pulaski, Fayetteville and Shelbyville, LifeSong Family Church was launched in Chapel Hill last August. The uniting of the two congregations brings together about 150 persons into a growing fellowship with a clear mission of reaching their community for Christ. LifeSong Church is also scheduled to open Lewisburg Christian Academy this fall with classes for kindergarten and first grade. Their expectation is that within three years they will be operating a full k-12 private non-denominational Christian school.



**Lewisburg Christian Academy School Logo**

## Church of God Heritage Conference

The congregations of Cookeville First, Cookeville Friendship, Baxter, Boma, Hilham and Celina will gather at the Cookeville Community Center, March 7th and 14th for services that will focus on the Heritage Teachings of the Church of God. With a service at 4:00 and 6:00 on each Sunday evening, the local pastors will bring the messages on four topics: Salvation, Holiness, The Second Coming of Christ and Identity of the Church. There will be a fellowship meal on March 14th.

## Tennessee Pastors Go Home to be with the Lord

**Harrison W. Wallace**, died Christmas Eve, 2009 in his home. He was an ordained minister of the Church of God and pastored for 11 years at Bethel Church of God in Dover, Tennessee and over 30 years at Rock Springs Church of God in Decatur, AL. Harrison is survived by his wife and five children including Rev. Lee Wallace of Knoxville, fourteen grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren, and five siblings.



**Daniel Williams Jr.**, died January 11, 2010. He served the Lord in many capacities including pasturing the Sewee Church of God in Niota, TN for 10 years. Dan is survived by his wife of 48 years, two children, four grandchildren, and three siblings.

Well done good and faithful servants.

**MEN'S**  
**RETREAT**  
April 23 & 24  
Camp Overton  
Speaker: David Kitchen

## Tennessee Ladies Events



- March 5-7** Heart Spa Retreat for Pastor's Wives and Ladies in Ministry  
Echota Resort—Cost \$110.00—Contact Donna Pierce 615-223-9065
- April 16-17** Middle & West WCG Spring Gathering  
Scott Memorial, Chattanooga—Speaker Donna Pierce
- April 24** East WCG Spring Convention  
Tacoma Church of God



Sustaining Health And Pastoral Excellence is in the process now of recruiting new participants for groups. If you are interested call the office at 615-893-4987.

Send information for the newsletter to [tncog@bellsouth.net](mailto:tncog@bellsouth.net).

## Hati Earthquake Relief

Thank you to all who have prayed for those involved in the tragedy and donated to the relief fund. So far \$234,600 has been donated across the Church of God movement with Tennessee giving close to \$9,000 of that. Tennessee's goal is \$25,000. A national team is set to go to Hati in mid-Feb to deliver funds and support for the relief and recovery effort. If you or your congregation would like to make a donation you may send it through the state office or directly to the national office. Please let the state office know what has been contributed to be included in our goal.



*Tennessee Ministries*  
**Congregational Ministries Team**  
**Leadership Conference**  
**Saturday, February 27th**  
**10:00am-3:00pm**  
**Grace Place**

- 10:00 Opening Session, Leadership Basics  
Dwayne Pierce, State Administrator
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Take the Stress Out of Leadership Relationships  
Grace Place Pastoral Team
- 12:15 Working Lunch at Grace Place
- 1:00 Can't We All Just Get Along?:  
A Layman's Perspective on Leadership Relationships  
Dr. Cliff Ricketts
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Open Dialogue
- 3:00 Closing Prayer

Cost is only \$25 per church  
for up to 5 people per church, each additional person \$5 each;  
for lunch & materials only  
Register today!

By calling the State Office at 615-893-4987 or email [tnchog@bellsouth.net](mailto:tnchog@bellsouth.net)

**Searching**  
for a **New**  
**Pastor**



**Baxter**  
**Greeneville Camp Ground/Worship**  
**Memphis East-Bartlett**  
**Murfreesboro**  
**Rockvale**  
**Scott Memorial/Youth**  
**Union City**  
Please keep these churches in your prayers.

**IYC 2010 July 15-18, 2010**  
**Orlando, Florida**  
**[www.IYC2010.org](http://www.IYC2010.org)**



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**Youth Convention**

**March 26-28**

**Gatlinburg, TN**

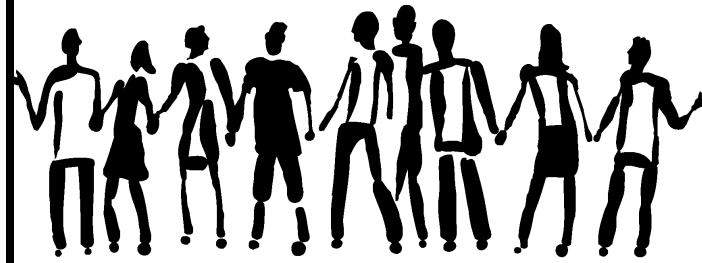
**Dark Vista Hotel & Conference Center**

**Theme: Life Saver - Jesus**

**1 Cor. 16:13-14**

**Speaker: Tony Cruz**

**Worship: Jonathan Lee & Sarah Reeves**



**Summer Camp Schedule**

- May 31-June 4 Jr Camp - Camp Greene
- June 7-11 Teen Camp - Camp Greene
- June 7-12 Teen Camp - Camp Overton
- June 14-17 Jr Camp - Camp Overton
- June 25-30 NAC - Anderson
- July 8-11 Camp Overton Camp Meeting
- July 25-30 West TN Camp Meeting - Big Rock
- July 25-Aug 1 East TN Camp Meeting
- Aug 1-6 Englewood Indoor Camp Meeting

**Motel Rooms Upgraded at Overton**



The motel bathrooms are nearing completion. We have all the materials to finish them, but need volunteer labor. Work to be done includes installing: vanities/sinks, toilets, insulation, dry wall, and shower kits  
There is also some caulking and painting to be done. If you can help, please contact Duane or Libby Thompkins at 931-686-2093 or [dltom@blomand.net](mailto:dltom@blomand.net)

**Dwayne's Travel Schedule**

**February**

- 4 SHAPE/Cookeville
- 7 Murfreesboro/Journey Pointe
- 14 Hermitage/Grace Place
- 15 Rockvale
- 16 PMT/Cookeville
- 26 CMT/State Office
- 27 Leadership Conference/Grace Place

**March**

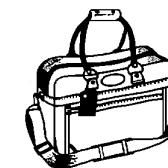
- 13 CMT/State Office
- 14 Heritage Conference/Cookeville
- 19-25 Vacation/Florida
- 26-28 Youth Convention/Gatlinburg

**April**

- 4 Greeneville
- 18 Chattanooga
- 23-24 State Men's Retreat/Overton

**May**

- 2-5 CTI Training/Orlando, FL
- 11 PMT/State Office
- 15 CMT/State Office



*Tennessee Ministries*

*of the Church of God*

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