



DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Rob Storey

2018 District Conference

Over these past 18 months I have come to greatly appreciate the people who serve in our five-state harvest field. Obviously, statistical information is included with this report, but foremost, I want to share my heart with those who have been called to the ministry of the gospel in the MidAmerica District.

MidAmerica District Staff

Kent continues to minister in key roles ranging from establishment of our Greenhouse Environments and church plants to helping lead the charge as we rework Ordination and Consecration. I have grown to appreciate his intentionality in everything he sets his mind to. He has been invaluable to the District family and is an excellent representative of our District.

Kay's attention to detail is greatly needed in addressing a wide range of District administration and all matters regarding our District Executive Committee. Her love for the District workers and her knowledge of District history have proven to be vital in making many of our decisions. Many of you have experienced her help when you call the office. I am grateful that she is part of our District team.

Kathy is not only our face and voice for the District as she serves as our receptionist, but also tracks the status of the men and women who are in our Leadership Development Pathway. Kathy works directly with our Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council in planning and coordinating our meetings and interviews. She also manages our database, and has a gift of keeping everything in order.

Lyn (my bride) continues to press into the Missions Mobilization role. Though a volunteer, she has been very aggressive at promoting Alliance missions. She has raised the temperature across the District for overseas missions and is laying down an excellent foundation for the future of District missions engagement.

Dan Cutler, our volunteer District treasurer, and Jane Samson, our CPA, continue to provide financial expertise and accountability. They make a great team as they ensure our financial obligations are met and also bring a wonderful balance of serving our churches and workers.

Moni Cutler, another volunteer, is our Great Commission Women's leader for the District. Her team has an outstanding ministry of prayer and support for our District missionaries and their families. These women are laser focused on our international workers' needs as these workers share the gospel in some very challenging locations around the world.

District Executive Committee (DEXCOM)

DEXCOM represents every worker in the District and, second to District Conference, is the legislative authority of our District. The men who serve on this committee care deeply for our workers, our churches, and our mission of taking the gospel into our world. As you prepare to elect individuals to this committee, remember they represent you and will make decisions that

impact your ministry. I encourage you to become aware of who serves on DEXCOM, and do not hesitate to connect with them regarding District business and issues. I greatly value the input of our current DEXCOM; they are men who are not afraid to ask questions and speak into the life of the District.

Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council (LO&CC)

The men who make up this Council are both theologically astute and shepherds who deeply care for the success and equipping of every District worker. We keep our LO&CC busy with full meetings and subcommittee work on both the east and west sides of the District. LO&CC interviews every man and woman interested in pursuing Alliance ministry. They also conduct the final full interview required for ordination and consecration. They are responsible for the support and development of the leadership pathway. LO&CC are appointed by DEXCOM.

District Workers

My greatest joy in this ministry is visiting our workers in their respective environments. Lyn and I have had the privilege of visiting every District church, but have not yet had opportunity to worship with every one of our churches. (I believe we have 12 left to visit on Sunday mornings.) We are continually encouraged by the character, giftedness, and passion of our workers serving throughout the 5-states comprising the MidAmerica District. There are many highlights, but here are a recent few I would like to share:

- ★ You can preach! Every church, every service, every message has been a powerful work of the preacher and the Holy Spirit.
- ★ Mission Church in Omaha. Only 1½ years old and already 14 different discipleship/small group ministries are in place.
- ★ Have you and your spouse ever danced in an African dance circle? Simeon Menso's ordination was an amazing Kingdom celebration involving the church, community leaders, and fellow pastors. (Simeon is the pastor of Christ Vision Ministries International, a Liberian church, in Aurora, CO.)
- ★ Dover Avenue Alliance Church in Orange City, IA has given \$758,284 to the GCF over the past 10 years!
- ★ Men's retreat at Missionary Alliance Church in Blairsburg, Iowa. One hundred sixty men showed up for the retreat and most of these men were not from Blairsburg! Great community outreach.
- ★ Twenty residents at Christ Community Church. Joe Jensen and the CCC staff have built a residency for the equipping of the saints and completion of a master's degree through Crown College!
- ★ Matt and Amber Walker and their three girls sensed the Lord leading them from Risen King Church in Weskan, KS to plant Hayes Center Community Church in Hayes Center, NE. Rural churches planting rural churches!
- ★ Fifty percent conversion growth in the Cedar Point Church in Nashua, IA. Darin Cerwinske and his team are leading their church in reaching their community for Jesus!
- ★ Lakewood Community Church turned 100 with Jeff and Leigh Pies serving the church for 30 of those years. There is something great about ministry longevity.
- ★ 6000 guests and 400 lives changed at Camp Rivercrest. Jon and his team love kids and love Jesus and creatively introduce one to the other!



- ★ Over 100 international students in the Global Friends' house every Friday! Monthly, students from the least reached people groups are finding Jesus through this ministry that involves 80+ volunteers.
- ★ Bellevue Community Church is a small church with a huge impact as they sponsor Bellevue International Friends. Fred and Pixie simply love and have fun with these students.
- ★ Bridge of Hope provided 700 beds and 1200 meals to the people in their neighborhood during severe cold weather this past winter. Steve and Robin continue to provide a helping hand to their neighbors.
- ★ Aurora Alliance Church, with an attendance of 35 and currently without a pastor, gave \$35,000 to the GCF this past year.
- ★ Our five African churches, our Bhutanese church, and our three Spanish-speaking churches continue to serve their neighbors by tirelessly serving the larger refugee communities.

I know what the writer of Hebrews must have felt like when he wrote in Hebrews 11:32, "And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell you about... *Citylight, Red Oak, Grand Junction, Missouri Valley, Front Range Alliance or Compass.*" My point is just as Esther was placed in her situation for "such a time as this," you have been placed in your setting for such a time as this to be a light within the geography to which God has called you.

MidAmerica District Values

In my role as DS, I have spent time with church leadership teams working through the values they hold for their churches. Knowing what we value drives our behavior. It is important for churches to know what they value and then build ministry, outreach, and mission around those values. The same is true for our District, so in January of this year the District staff took some time to work through our values. Again, what we value will ultimately drive vision, mission, and goals. We landed on the following:

1. We Value Hearing God's Voice

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

Can you imagine what would happen if we truly listened to the voice of God over all the voices in the world? If we truly postured ourselves to hear the voice of our LORD? If we listened to the voice of our Shepherd and gladly, joyfully followed Him as He calls His sheep? It is easy for us to strategize, scheme, and plan and then ask God what He thinks. My prayer is that we, at the District Office, are constantly anticipating the voice of God to direct and guide our thoughts and actions. My prayer is that District leadership (staff, DEXCOM, LO&CC) is constantly seeking to hear the voice of the Shepherd, and that we can distinguish the voice of Jesus from the myriad of other voices that demand our attention.

2. We Value Obediently Walking In Deep Dependence On The Spirit

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 6:25).

Paul assumes that you and I are living by the Spirit (crucified sinful nature; identified by the fruit of the Spirit). It is easy to see when a marching band member is out of step with the rest of his team. In ministry, we can often hide our missteps with the Spirit in busyness, accomplishments, or with excuses. At the District Office we want to drop our pretenses and listen to our Father and then walk in step with the Holy Spirit. We ask our District family to hold us accountable in this journey with the Spirit. When we are out of step with the Spirit, we ask you to talk to us. When we are wandering from the truth, we need you to gently restore us.

3. Intentionally And Aggressively Advancing the Kingdom In All Four Acts 1:8 Environments

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Honestly, I want to bypass our first two values and jump to our third value. As a guy who likes to get stuff done, this is the value that puts feet to our ministry. If there is one thing God has taught me these past 18 months, it is that I must take time to listen to His voice, and I must depend on the life and work of the Holy Spirit. Then, after we have listened and when we are in step with the Spirit, we can intentionally and aggressively advance His Kingdom.

Our third value has been broken down into four action areas. These four areas review where we have been and hopefully cast a vision of where we are headed.

EMERGING LEADER DEVELOPMENT

- We currently have 56 men and women in the ordination/consecration process. We are identifying new leaders through Greenhouse Environments, church residencies and internships, and our ALME (Alliance Licensed Ministry Experience) training grounds. We must walk faithfully and help these men and women confirm their call.
- It is exciting to have a role in equipping the next generation of Kingdom workers.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

- I have asked Kent to supplement my report with a church multiplication update. His efforts toward church multiplication involve aggressively coordinating pipelines with churches and workers to identify, assess, and equip/resource new church planting teams. Your church giving to the District Operating Budget supports church planting throughout the District.

CHURCH AND PASTORAL SUPPORT AND ONGOING LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- We continue to walk with pastors and existing churches by providing assistance during pastoral transitions and financial support for workers needing counseling, sabbaticals, and ongoing education. The finances for supporting our workers comes, again, through your generous giving to the District family.
- We have initiated regional training on various topics for official workers and church leadership teams. I would highly encourage taking advantage of these opportunities.

MISSIONS MOBILIZATION

- Lyn has done a great job in building a solid foundation for this ministry. Her desire is to provide resources to missions teams, creatively assist churches in planning quality missions conferences, and provide opportunities for official worker vision trips to visit our C&MA international workers in their ministry environments.

What's Next? (Ongoing Discussion Topics)

- What kind of equipping and training would most benefit our churches and their leadership teams?
- How do we continue to identify and engage new Kingdom workers?
- How do we co-labor as a District family in helping one another reach your Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria?

- How do we continue to help our family of churches value our international missions work? The Alliance does missions well, and we are reaching the most gospel-isolated people of the world.
- We will continue to unpack the role of women in church leadership positions. This ongoing discussion involves our denomination, DEXCOM, and LO&CC.
- How do we manage a leadership pathway where our standards are met and, yet, where we can be flexible with those requirements depending on a person's experience and education?
- How does MAD continue to engage with our Central Region Church Planting team in collaborating with other districts in sharing strategies and resources with the goal of reaching the lost?

My goal for the first two years of my ministry at the District Office was to provide some stability in a District that has seen four different superintendents in as many years. I desire that every worker and every church leadership board know they are valued and appreciated members of our District family. Thank you for your Kingdom service.