



Mission and Ministry Take Center Stage

We believe that the South Central Conference Office exists to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of the churches in the South Central Conference. Therefore, the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department exists to assist pastors

and their church leaders in leading their churches to become more Spirit-filled and mission-driven. We do this by providing pastors and their church leaders with ministry coaching and support in five fundamental areas of Church Development: 1) Prayer Development, 2) Mission De-

velopment, 3) Spiritual Gifts Development, 4) Small Groups Development, and 5) Ministry Development. When engaged sequentially, these become one fivefold strategy for leading churches to become more Spirit-led and mission-driven.

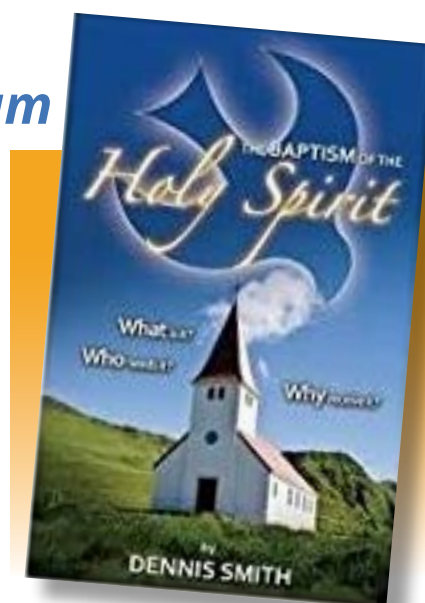
Prayer Ignites Conference Ministry Team

Spirit-led, latter-rain Revival in early stages in South Central

I believe we are in the earliest stages of a Holy Spirit-led, “latter rain” revival within the South Central Conference! Why? Approximately 150 people gathered virtually for our Upper Room Conference in January desiring to be born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, and led by the Spirit into mission-driven ministry, and now, over 50 of them are meeting together weekly in Upper Room Small Groups studying Dennis Smith’s book “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.” Then, on the last day of our Winter Pastor’s Worker’s Meeting in February, after a devotional message by Pastor Marlon Reid of the Hillcrest Church in Nashville, our President,

Elder Benjamin Jones, felt led to lead the pastors in a spontaneous prayer time—that literally lasted for 2 ½ hours! Recognizing that the Holy Spirit had taken over the agenda, Elder Jones simply concluded the meeting, acknowledging that our most important work had been accomplished.

As I said, I believe we are in the earliest stages of a Holy Spirit-led, “latter rain” revival within the South Central Conference!!! The prophet said, “So shout for joy, you sons of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has brought down for you the rain, the



early and latter rain as before” (Joel 2:23, NASB). However, we should also be aware that another has written, “unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recog-

Continued on page 2

THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Prayer Ignites Conference Ministry Team

Continued from cover

nize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.”

The context of this warning is so instructive, we thought it beneficial to provide it in its entirety:

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so, the Lord shall make bright clouds and give them showers of rain.” “He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.” In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God’s grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The latter rain, ripening earth’s

harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

There is to be “first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer

and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.”

—Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, March 2, 1897

Although we cannot “create” the latter rain or design a program that will “produce” the latter rain, we can put ourselves in a position to “receive” the latter rain.

If you would like for our Church Ministries & Mission Development Team to assist your church in facilitating an Upper Room Experience for members to pray for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit, please contact our office at 615.226.6500 Ext 133, or by email at ffordham@scc-sda.org.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEVELOPMENT

Now that most of our churches are past their end of the year nominating committee season, it’s a great time to remind all members that you don’t have to be voted into an official position to serve. Service is not limited to those who have been voted onto the church board as an elder or head deacon or sabbath school superintendent or community services director or children’s ministry director. The Holy Spirit has already authorized you and empowered you to use the gift God has given you to serve others. Serving as an official officer of the church

requires church approval; but serving others does not. If you were not formally asked to serve in ministry by your church’s nominating committee, don’t let that prevent you from using your gifts to serve others.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it well, “Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

MISSION DEVELOPMENT

If you believe that your church needs to become more Spirit-filled & Mission-driven, you are welcome to join Pastoral Cohort #4. There are still a few slots remaining! Send an email to ffordham@scc-sda.org to become a part!

SMALL GROUP DEVELOPMENT

8-Week UPPER ROOM Virtual Small Group

THE UPPER ROOM SMALL GROUP

Starting Feb 11, 2022
3 sessions each week

Register at - www.iamsouthcentral.org/CMMD

For those who registered, our Upper Room Small Groups will continue meeting together on Friday evenings at 7pm, Sabbath afternoons at 4pm, and Sunday mornings at 8am throughout the month March. If you missed the opportunity to participate, and would welcome an opportunity to join an Upper Room Small Group in the future, or to have an Upper Room Small Group facilitated at your church, please contact our office at 615.226.6500 Ext 133 or email ffordham@scc-sda.org.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

H.E.A.L.E.R.S. - Herbs

Discover one of the best herbs to dramatically improve heart failure! To learn the best (and least effective) way of taking herbs watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILok6OW702c>



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Attention All Children Ministry Leaders!!!

Attached is the link for the GC Global Children's Day, March 19, 2022. The link takes you to WeTransfer and all you need to do is click the download button and save to your drive. This year there are a lot of great resources you can use to promote Global Children's Day that children all over the world are celebrating. Check it out and promote on your website and social media pages.

<https://we.tl/t-tqgx1vBPSW>



Upcoming Events

- **March 8** — Pastoral Cohort #4 Begins
- **April 1-3** — Upper Room Small Group Finale
- **April 5** — Whetstone
- **April 29-30** — Southern Union MEGA IMPACT 2022 (virtual)

