

Sunday School Ministries Chairperson
Report to District Assembly – 2017

To General Superintendent, Dr. David Basic, District Superintendent, Rev. Art Alexander, fellow ministers, delegates, members and friends of the 111st Annual District Assembly of the Metro New York District; it is an honor and privilege to report as Sunday School Ministries Chairperson.

These are exciting times for us on the Metro New York District. We are on the cutting edge, faced with becoming agents of change in order that we, the people called Nazarenes, can pass a culturally significant baton to the next generation...that is a grace filled, fully alive & growing faith in Christ Jesus.

Being effective for His Kingdom is of high value to the SSM Team. This last year we began to build a team of people who love the Lord and want to use their gifts and talents to serve in countless ways on Metro NY, so we began to refocus and evaluate our effectiveness on this vast district. Now, we believe everything we do is about making disciples, and indeed it is possible to make disciples of *all nations* who are represented right here in a mission field called the Metro New York District. Our team determined a few years ago that SDMI exists to serve the local churches on the district.

Realizing we are not “a one size fits all” district, we began bringing kids, youth and adult training days to local churches that ask, along with other churches on the Zone. We conducted several training days on the district and empowered 12 churches to start up small groups, train leaders and Children’s Ministry Teachers and workers. We offer curriculum, training, and follow-up. Special thanks to Dawn Dean and Ann Van Hine, for their outstanding training for Children’s Ministry.

Adults:

God has blessed our focus on discipleship. At General Assembly in June, 2017, Metro NY placed number one in outstanding ministries to adults for the Quadrennial. We had 30% growth for Adult Ministries, discipleship classes, small groups, marriage classes, and retreats. Number 1 out of 88 districts worldwide. Wow!

In keeping our eye on making Christ like disciples in ALL nations, in 2017 we met with Pastor Delores Burnett of American Bible Society to partner in getting all of our churches involved in the Community Bible Experience. It is an 8 week study in the New Testament with free curriculum and training in English and Spanish. Seventy people came out to be trained, from Brooklyn, Bronx, Long Island, Connecticut and New Jersey. Over 30 churches are involved using the materials for Adults and Youth In bible studies, Sunday School Classes or Midweek. We expect to see the fruit of churches being in one accord, reading and studying His word.

Children's Ministry

Apart from the growing Children's Sunday School Ministry (Sunday School, VBS, etc) across the district, bible quizzing has shown numeric and spiritual growth. We studied the book of Mathew had about 60 kid participating. There were six churches Bronx Bethany, Springfield Gardens, Ozone Park, East Rockaway, The Bridge, and our newest addition Brentwood church of the Nazarene. Coming off World Quizzing, we have an increase of Quizzers... Dawn Dean our Children's Director is doing a great job. She finds joy working in this part of vineyard seeing kids learning about God and hiding his word in their heart. Special thanks to Yakima Brown in her leadership of Youth Quizzing!

Women's Retreat: A great time was had at The Inn at Pocono Manor, September 30-Oct 1. Two amazing speakers, Rosemary Miller and Nancy Rivera brought the house down in our theme "Now is the Time... to let go of fear and trust God". It was spiritually challenging and reassuring to know that we can't control what trials will come, however, how we navigate those trials, in faith not fear, will reap benefits of spiritual growth. Special thanks to our Women's Council, Sheryl Myles, Chery Viera, Diana Lodespoto, Maria Spencer, Rosemary Miller and Nancy Rivera for making this another great weekend.

We are finding that more and more local churches are having their own retreats, which is great, however, we continue to serve and offer a district retreat for those churches who either want to connect with other women across the district as well as us resourcing them to have their own local church retreat.

Prayer

It is with such gratitude that I work alongside 2 special people in Metro Connect.... Rev. Tito Rivera and Rev. Yelssy Manza! We are so passionate about what we do; and burdened for the lost and all that goes on here at Metro NY, we formed a month prayer newsletter; enlisting the collective District church to pray. We are seeing great results as there is power in numbers, power in prayer and a legacy to be left. Thank you for praying; If you're not currently involve and want to join us go to our website at www.mnynaz.com ! You can't miss it!

We also so appreciate, our District bookkeeper, Kathleen Martini; District Statistician, Diana Lodespoto, District NMI Director, Yelssy Manza, and District NYI Director, Tito Rivera for making the SDMI team the best it's ever been.

We have a bright future on this district as we continually seek new ideas and, implement changes that will help us cross cultural and generational bridges, always keeping in mind our mission...to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind as we make disciples of *all* nations.

Faithfully submitted,
REV. CHRISTINE PAOLINO