

Sunday School Discipleship Ministries Int'l Chairperson Report to District Assembly

To General Superintendent, Dr. David Busic, District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Sam Vassel, fellow ministers, delegates, members and friends of the 112th Annual District Assembly of the Metro New York District; it is an honor and privilege to report as Sunday School Ministries Chairperson.

It is so exciting to share the “good news” of Sunday School Discipleship Ministries... and our news is quite good! The mission of SDMI is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults, preparing them for a lifetime of Christian holiness. Therefore, we exist to resource churches through a shared vision to renew, equip and connect pastors, leaders, and congregations for advancing the Kingdom.

In 2018, our district partnered with the American Bible Society on a project “Community Bible Experience.” The goal was to get people of all ages reading and understanding Gods Word. Our district held a training led by Rev. Delores Burnett, (ABS) for any Nazarene churches willing to be involved in this initiative. Over 2,000 free New Testament bibles were given out in Spanish and English with digital resources for children, youth and adults, along with a reading plan, bible study or SS class materials/questions. The feedback was amazing, lives were touched, people are growing in their knowledge and relationship with God and each other. As a result, this initiative continues through 2019, as it was a catalyst to many of our churches seeing the need to develop their ministry. Since this time, we began resourcing churches quite regularly. Now that the word is out, many more churches are asking for training, and round table discussions to seek creative ways to stay relevant and meet needs.

This year we have resourced churches on systems and processes, monthly statistical reporting, how to recruit volunteer staff and Nazarene Safe. Our trainings have covered, “How to begin Small Group Ministries”, Small Group Leader Training, SS Teacher and Worker trainings, Adult Sunday School Classes, Vacation Bible School, Kids Quizzing, curriculum and more. Due to the growing need around our district, SDMI, NYI, NMI and Palmer Institute will be offering a District Conference Day in early November 2019 for all church pastors, lay leaders to come out and get informed and equipped. Join us today at our “Table Talk” lunch at 12:00pm and let us discuss exactly what you need in training, information, equipping and materials to help you fulfill Gods vision for your church!

Our Kids Quizzing, led by SDMI Children’s Director, Dawn Deane is growing. We have added another church and an additional 20 children are participating in The Book of Acts. There are currently 75 children quizzing across our district. The regionals take place on June 15th at ENC. Dawn says she is so blessed by the children and how the church leaders work so well with one another.

Youth Quizzing led by Yakima Brown is having a great year. The Aug 2018- May 2019 season, the youth are studying the book of John. This year the Bedford Zion team took home the 1st place trophy in the District!!! Another church joined the Youth Quizzing with 5 more youth! There are 25 quizzers representing the Metro District at the Regionals May16-19 2019. Yakima believes the youth love coming together to fellowship and compete with all the other districts, making new friends along the way. Thank you Dawn and Yakima for your zeal, passion and hard work as God's word is embedded in the hearts and minds of our kids and youth!

Women's Retreat last year was at Spruce Lake as a "pilot" leadership and assessment retreat for this year. One September 27-29, 2019 our new and revised Women's Retreat "Revive" will be held at Spruce Lake. Registration opens on June 1st. Stop by our display table and pick up some info on this.

I am blessed to work alongside of an amazing men and women on the SDMI team. Without their gifts and talents, we could never do it. Special thanks to District Treasurer, Rosalind Gaffney, District Financial Admin, Coleen Mendes, District Statistician, Diana Lodespoto, Registrar, Julie Urrutia, Rev. Yelssy Manza, NMI Director, Rev. Tito Rivera, NYI Director, Kidz Ministry & Quizzing, Dawn Deane, Metro Kidz Childcare, Carole Haines, Mauricio Perez, Sheryl Myles, Cheryl Vieira, Rosemary Miller, Nancy Logrippo Rivera, Judy Solomon, Alondra Perez.

These are exciting times on the Metro NY District as we continually seek new ideas and, implement changes that will help unify us as we cross the generational and cultural bridges, keeping in mind our mission...to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and make disciples of **all** nations.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Christine Paolino
Director of Sunday School Discipleship Ministries Int'l