

## Sunday School Discipleship Ministries Report to Assembly 2014

To the General Superintendent, Dr. J.K. Warrick, District Superintendent, Rev. Art Alexander, fellow ministers; delegates; members and friends of the 107th Annual District Assembly of the Metro NY District, it is my privilege and honor to report as Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries Chairperson.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Art Alexander our District Superintendent, Rosalind Gaffney our District Treasurer, Kathleen Martini—bookkeeper, Diana Lodespoto—statistician, and all of the District office staff, for your year round encouragement and support.

In looking back over the last year, I've come to realize that SDMI is not only about reporting statistics and being a resource for the local churches, we are about connecting people to God.

When Jesus was spending his last moments with his disciples he gave them this mission and said, "all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore and make disciples of ALL nations....baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. From the disciple's perspective, it sounded a bit different than it does to us today. Jesus told these men who had followed him through the years to go and reproduce the experience they had with him in others. If we carefully study Matthew 28:18-20 this passage - it calls on every follower of Jesus to be disciple makers.

SDMI seeks to do this with children through adults. There have been some BIG "doings around the district last year.

In 2013, we were able to give our District Assembly a flavor of what Bible Quizzing is all about. Kids bible quizzing, directors Ann Van Hine and Youth Bible Quizzing Director, Yakima Browne, held a District Quiz and demonstrated the powerful effect of Bible Quizzing in our children's lives. Connecting Quizzing and Quizzers at District Assembly, gave a bigger picture to our churches as well as the kids, thus increasing the number of churches involved. During the Friday evening banquet last assembly, the kids and teen quizzers were recognized in front of the entire assembly.

**21 Metro New York Quizzers qualified and attended World Quiz on June 22, 2013.** Not only is this a testament to the children studying and learning God's Word but it shows the support their families and local church gave the quizzers to be able to send 21 children to Indianapolis to participate.

**Kids Day** is always a wonderful time of fun, fellowship and faith. Over 300 children and adults from all over the district packed out Camp Taconic to enjoy God's beautiful creation and learn more about missions. Last year's Kids Day provided opportunity for the children to take part in an event that would reach around the world. Through a series of God connections, the craft the children made at Kids Day would bring messages of hope and love to the children of Japan.

**Women's Retreat:** 225 women attended a fabulous weekend "Café Chocolat" Where God's grace is Sweet" at The Inn at Pocono Manor. It was a very sweet time together! Special thanks to inspirational speakers Rev. Delmy Cruz, Rev. Sharon Hurkens. Jane Boyd, an awesome teacher, taught an invaluable workshop on Bible Methods. The tools Jane gave us last year will continue to be used for many years. Women's Council members: Cheryl Viera, Maria Spencer, Sharon Hurkens, Laura Ollett, Sheryl Myles,

Registrars, Gay Van Vorst and Joyce Johnson did a wonderful job in making the retreat a special time for all who came.

**Men's Retreat:** Held in November at Spruce Lake, over 200 men came together, enjoyed food, fellowship and the inspiration of Rev. Gabriel Salguero, who challenged men to become the men God called them to be in his "Man Up" talks. Special thanks to Pastor Gabe, our District Superintendent Rev. Art Alexander, registrar Scott Smith and our Camp Taconic Staff who made it happen for the men at Spruce Lake.

**Small Groups:** BIG things happen in small groups. It's a place where children, youth and adults can gather together, celebrate life, wrestle with the hard questions, and grow in knowledge and love of God. Last year we have equipped a few churches with training and resources for children, and adult bible studies in homes and the marketplace. It is exciting to see God's movement in these churches.

For two thousand years, the church has been following Jesus and making disciple makers. As we continue to live obedient lives, we are constantly challenged by this commission. When we observe how Jesus made disciples, we see two things clearly emerge. His process was **relational** - he did life with his disciples and it was also **intentional**. Jesus knew that he would be leaving earth and that his disciples had to carry on the work. He carefully and intentionally prepared them to do that very thing.

Taking this to heart, the Metro New York District SDMI team seeks to implement this very same process. We want to be **intentional** and **relational** with our local churches in order that we can help resource them for every age level to make fully devoted followers of Christ who are modelling and reproducing themselves in their homes, and communities. .

Oh the places we will go....

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Christine Paolino  
MNY District Director SDMI