

DID YOU KNOW?

From the desk of Supt. Mitch Pierce

NERegion News

June 2010

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Last week at the Genesis BOA meeting Rob Campbell shared a devotional from the story of the widow's oil in 2 Kings 4:1-7. Rob challenged us to ask, "Where am I full to overflow", and, "Where am I empty that God can fill me and cause me to overflow?" Great questions to reflect upon...

Rob then asked what the story was saying to us. Two points in the story jumped off the Scripture page and gave me pause:

1. Verse 2 – "what do you have in your house?"
2. Verse 3 – "ask all your neighbors"

What I heard the Spirit saying was ministry begins at home – in my house. And I need to go to and connect with ALL my neighbors; not just the Christian ones, or the ones I am comfortable with, but ALL of them; maybe, especially, the ones I feel a disconnect with.

How can I connect with my neighbors? What do I have in my house? A dining room table, some board games, lawn chairs and a jug of tea, and tools to share. Outside there is a garden, fruit trees and berry bushes and plenty of harvest to share. I can ride my bike around the neighborhood and stop to chat with the porch sitters. Simple connects can be made – last evening, riding our bikes, we met Dave and Tammy. They asked if we played euchre. We said no but we can learn. I think we can do this "live the story, tell the story" thing!

Rob, thanks for the reminder: Where we are empty, God can fill us. Where we are full, we can overflow!

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## *CALL2FALL: Sunday, July 4*

Believers of all denominations across America are challenged to not only celebrate their independence as a nation, but also their dependence upon God through humble and repentant prayer (2 Chronicles 7:14) on Sunday, July 4—the Fourth of July. During morning worship include a time of intercession. For ideas & resources, visit [www.call2fall.com](http://www.call2fall.com).

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Celebrating an historic moment . . .

*150th ANNIVERSARY of the FREE METHODIST
DENOMINATION*

Monday, August 23, is the **150th anniversary of the Free Methodist Church**. The OVERFLOW Conference this past April was a kick-off celebration to begin a 15 month long emphasis which will culminate July 13–17, 2011 at General Conference in North Chili, New York, a birthplace of our denomination.

On Sunday, August 22, all FM churches are urged to celebrate our founding original vision, and commit to continue to LIVE the Story and TELL the Story of God's desire for all to experience wholeness & holiness.

The following resources are being made available for local church use:

Available now:

- **DVD highlighting Free Methodist history**
 - View and download from <http://reelfm.tv/2010/04/bt-roberts>
 - OR purchase a copy for \$5 by calling the Ministries Center in Indianapolis at 1-800-342-5531. Ask for the Marston Historical Center.
- **Digital Images of founders B. T. & Ellen Roberts, and other historical persons/events.**
 - Email the Historical Center (CathyF@fmcna.org) to request.

Available in early August for use on Celebration Sunday, August 22:

- **New 150th Celebration DVD**, available at <http://reelfm.tv>

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## *Reflections from Overflow*

As I have met with District Leaders and Conference Boards since Overflow Conference in April we have taken time to evaluate OC'10.

Here is a list of some of the responses I have heard:

- **Connections:** great time to connect with God and each other.
- **Larger Family:** good to see we are a part of a movement much larger than our local church.
- **Internal check:** a good time to invite the Holy Spirit to examine my heart and motives and commitment to mission.
- **Renew:** God did a new work in my life and excited me for mission.
- **Celebration:** the worship, fellowship, videos, messages, and training time all were grace moments to celebrate.
- **Diversity:** it was great to sing and pray and hear stories in different languages and from different cultures.
- **Inspiration:** the whole event was up-lifting.
- **Informative:** great teaching with a consistent thread to live the story, tell the story.
- **Challenging:** I received a renewed vision to reach the lost.

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Districts and DLs in action – next steps after Overflow

District Leaders (DLs) are working with the pastors of their Districts to encourage the next steps from Overflow: the **development of a 2-sentence Statement of Intention**. Each

church is asked to submit their 2-sentence plan for new groups by July 22. Some already have reported in. Some are in process – my Mom said her church watched “The Baking Bishop” video yesterday and they are meeting tonight to discuss what this means for their church. Keep pondering your statement of intention, and, keep studying “*The Company of the Creative*” booklet. (Note: See Statement of Intent box at end.)

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***LIVE THE STORY, TELL THE STORY:***

[www.livethestorytellthestory.com](http://www.livethestorytellthestory.com)

**Order OVERFLOW DVDs:** Copies of the 5 main sessions at Overflow 2010 can still be ordered, by sending a check for \$20 (DVD only) or \$22.50 (booklet also) to: Nikki Roller, 2315 W. Burke St., Tampa FL 33604. Make check payable to **Overflow Conference**. When the DVDs arrive, WATCH THEM with your leaders, and USE THEM as a training series with your people! Share the message of Live the Story/Tell the Story!

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From the FM Benefits Committee

Did you know Supt. Pierce serves on the FMCNA Board of Administration which meets for 2 days of meetings twice a year, April and October? As a member of the FMCNA BOA, he also serves on the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, various task groups, and the Benefits Committee which oversees the FM Pastor’s Pension program.

At a recent meeting of the Benefits Committee, the reports were positive regarding growth in our investments; a gain of 27% last year. New policies were also enacted regarding Conference temporarily suspending an individual pension contribution for non-payment by a local church, resulting in the pastor losing a credited service year from his/her pension benefit at retirement. It is essential that the local church pay its Fair Share and, at minimum, the pastor’s pension.

For more information, review the June 2010 **Benefit Insights** newsletter or call HR.
<http://hr.freemethodistchurch.org>
http://hr.freemethodistchurch.org/cms_media/files/Newsletter%20Final%20June%202010.pdf

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***Changes in Appointments***

Here are changes in appointments since the 2010 Appointments were read at Overflow/Annual Conference in April:

**Genesis:**

Cortland, Living Word – Tom Chappell  
East Otto, Brooklyn – Chris Cole  
Jamestown First – Brett Heintzman  
North Tonawanda, Nash Road – Dennis LaBoy

**Keystone:**

Elkland, New Fellowship Ministries – John Mann (yoked with Wellsboro)  
Ellwood City – continues Under the District Leader  
North East, Lakeshore – John Fraser

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Statement of Intention

YOUR STATEMENT OF INTENT
is due by JULY 22nd

Every individual believer can LIVE THE STORY (your non-verbal witness of attitudes and actions) and TELL THE STORY (your verbal testimony for Christ), spontaneously as you go about your daily routine.

Additionally, as congregations we can also LIVE & TELL God’s story, by planning creative ways to reach others in our neighborhoods and community, by offering resources and friendship through felt-need small groups.

By July 22, each local church should register their congregation’s two-sentence “Statement of Intent” at www.livethestorytellthestory.com (click on right column box). Bishop Roller will check the site for every church’s participation.

ENGLISH Statement of Intent

The two-sentence Statement of Intention is a simple explanation of your plan. It shows that you are talking together and have developed a rudimentary plan. The two-sentence Statement of Intention answers the question: How do you intend to create reproducible groups led by lay believers that non-believers attend? Some examples:

- We, the New Adrenaline FMC of Endocrine, Maine will start 6 new groups by 10/10/10. We know that the service component of 1 will be to offer ESL to immigrants, the other 5 will be discovered before Sept 22.
- We, the Light-N-Up FMC of Yoke, PA will start 15 new groups by 10/10/10. Each one will have a different focus determined by the starters.
- We the Ol’Yeller FMC of Knine, FL will start 2 new groups by 10/10/10. One will serve young mothers, the other, widows.
- We the His Feet FMC of Podiatry, NY will adapt our existing Life groups to make them smaller (so more people can lead them). We’ll also ensure that they re-design to minister to non-believers.

ESPAÑOL: La Declaración de Intención

(2-sentence Statement of Intention en Inglés) tiene que ser registrado antes del 22 de julio de 2010 en www.livethestorytellthestory.com Es una sencilla descripción de su plan que estamos requiriendo para grupos pequeños. La Declaración de Intención contesta la pregunta: ¿cómo vamos a criar grupos reproducibles, dirigidos por laicos, que contengan no-creyentes? Estos son los requisitos. Aquí van algunos ejemplos:

- Nosotros, la Nueva Adrenalina IML empezaremos 6 nuevos grupos por 10-10-2010. El componente de servicio para uno de los grupos será enseñar inglés a los inmigrantes, los otros 5 grupos todavía están descubriendo su enfoque de servicio.
- Nosotros, La Iglesia Ligera, empezaremos 15 nuevos grupos por 10-10-2010. Cada grupo tendrá un enfoque de

servicio distinto, dependiendo en los que dirigen cada grupo.

- Nosotros, El Triunfo IML empezaremos 2 nuevos grupos por 10-10-2010. Uno servirá a madres solteras, el segundo servirá a viudas.
- Nosotros, Sus Pies IML, adaptaremos nuestros grupos pequeños, haciéndolos mas pequeños (para que mas personas puedan dirigirlos). También aseguraremos que en la adaptación de los grupos existentes, serán cambiados para ministra a no-creyentes.

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**Northeast Region FMCNA [www.nerfmc.com](http://www.nerfmc.com) Genesis and Keystone Conferences**