Welcome to this issue of The Voice of Disciples Men. You will find inside many things that Disciples Men of different Regions are doing: from getting spirits renewed at Men’s Retreats, building ramps, Boy Scouts, to feeding hungry kids. You will find out about the first annual Stone-Campbell Scramble that will be held on July 12 in Davenport, FL., about 20 minutes from the convention center in Orlando, FL where the General Assembly will be held. We hope you will be able to join us for a great time and to help raise money to support missions for kids.

At the Men’s luncheon and business meeting during the General Assembly, new officers and new members of the General Conference will be installed. A listing of these new members can be found inside; we invite you to attend this luncheon.

We welcome Rev. Stephen Bentley as our part-time Minister of GCDM. Steve will bring to the table a love for men’s activities and will be a great resource for helping DM move forward.

We hope to see you at GA starting with the golf and ending with the Men’s luncheon. As always, if you have questions or suggestions concerning DM activities please contact me.

Archie Jenkins
President.
The Men’s Retreat of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia took place at Camp Christian on April 12-13, 2013, with keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Jerry Gladson.

The yearly retreat of the Disciples Men from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida took place in March 8-9, 2013 at the YMC-Hargis Retreat in Chelsea, AL.

The resource leader was the Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery.
The Nebraska Men’s Spiritual Retreat was held Saturday, April 20 at East Lincoln Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska and led by Rev. Lew C. Champ.

“Even though I was only able to attend the first part of the retreat, it was a wonderful time of what church really is meant to be. Enjoyed the speaker, the work, the music and the fishing.” Darren Anderson

Congratulations to District 4 Men for winning the Governor’s Cup and Craig Springs Quilt Award.

Virginia Region Men’s Retreat
April 5-7, 2013 at Airfield 4H Conference Center in Wakefield, VA

Scott Thayer’s closing of “Ladder of Life: Your Spiritual Autobiography”

“This peaceful setting reminded me to find a quiet place in my heart to thank God each and every day... a place where we could enjoy the beauty of creation.” Les DuVall
Making a difference!

Kinston, NC - John Galog saw a need and an opportunity to make a difference for a young girl. Galog, a media and technology technician with Lenoir County Public Schools, met Ty’ Kalah a couple of years ago at Southeast Elementary School. Ty’ Kalah, who suffers from cerebral palsy and seizure disorder, was crying and I tried to comfort her said Galog. From that moment till now we have been friends. Because of her handicap, Ty’ Kalah is confined to a wheelchair. However, her parents had to manually lift her and the wheelchair in and out of her house if they were to leave their residence. Ty’ Kalah needed a wheelchair ramp.

Galog, a member of Southwood Memorial Christian Church and the Christian Men’s Fellowship approached the CMF about Ty’ Kalah’s situation. The CMF approved funds to purchase the material and church member Brandon Rouse of Advantage Builders and Remodeling, Llc. agreed to lead the project. Six CMF members assembled at Ty’ Kalah’s home early Saturday morning. Even the threat of Hurricane Sandy could not keep Galog, Rouse, Richie Williamson, Farmer Jenkins, Steve Burkett and Chris Jenkins from completing the ramp project. Ty’ Kalah’s parents, Amanda and Tyron, are extremely thankful to Galog and his Christian Men’s Fellowship team for their dedication and devotion to making a difference for their daughter.

Bruce Williamson, CMF President
Southwood Memorial Christian Church
ANNOUNCING THE STONE-CAMPBELL SCRAMBLE
Fighting Childhood Hunger in the Hot Sun

Disciple Men and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society are pairing up to combat childhood hunger and host a golf tournament on the eve of this year’s General Assembly meeting in Orlando. Assembly goers of all skill levels and genders are invited to participate in the Stone Campbell Scramble, a four-to-a-team “best ball” teeing off at 8 AM July 12 at the Ridgewood Lakes Golf Club in near by Davenport. Cost per golfer is $60, and is inclusive of driving range, carts, play and lunch. Poor performance may be enhanced by purchasing mulligans, string and other legalized forms of cheating on the day of the tournament. Speaking of the event, DCHS president, Dr. Glenn Carson, said, “I’m very excited to be participating. I’ve never played golf before but I’m using some Ben Hogan clubs in hopes of channeling that great Disciple golfer.” Disciple Men president, Archie Jenkins has promised to help Dr. Carson by teaming him with General Minster and President, Dr. Sharon Watkins.

All proceeds of the Stone Campbell Scramble will go to feed children through existing programs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Monies made will be divided between the Four Historic Disciple Home Mission Centers: All Peoples Christian Center, Los Angeles, Calif.; Inman Christian Center, San Antonio, Tex.; Kentucky Appalachian Ministries, Lexington, Ky. and the Yakima Christian Mission, White Swan, Wash.

To register on line contact Arnold Nelson at: arnold@fcdduncan.com. You may also register at the golf club the morning of the event while enjoying coffee and doughnuts courtesy of the Disciple Men of First Christian, Haines City. Persons registering individually will be teamed up at the time of play. Those signing up as twosomes and foursomes will be kept together. Play your best game and have a good time. Anyone can hit a birdie even if it’s a sand crane. At noon we will break for a delicious Florida barbecue whatever that may be.

Those traveling long distances will be pleased to know Ridgewood Lakes Golf Club is stocking a large supply of rental clubs. Also, a large holding area is being set aside to safely store clubs sent ahead.

The address is: 200 Eagle Ridge Drive, Davenport FL 33837-4515. To speak to someone at the club phone: (863) 424-8688.
“Todo camino empieza con una decisión, una acción para moverte en cierta dirección, tu ministerio de hombres te invita para que juntos podamos hacer el análisis de nuestro caminar.”

“Every journey starts with a decision, an action to move in a certain direction, your men’s ministry invites you to analyze our journey together.” Efraín Rivera

The Disciples Men Ministries of the Southeast Hispanic and Bilingual Convention had another successful retreat in March at Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center in Lake Placid, FL with the theme “Escogiendo la Mejor Ruta” (Choosing the Best Route). A total of 103 Hispanic Disciples Men from the Southeast of the US (from Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela) attended the retreat in which Rev. Elías Uricoechea served as guest speaker, concert by Ricardo Rodríguez and youth activities by Sammy Díaz. This year’s “amazing race” included a super slippery slide, basketball, volleyball, soccer, boats and beach course, dominoes, zip line, and rock climbing wall.

For more information on future activities please go to https://www.facebook.com/hombrescristianos or email at hombrescristianos@icloud.com.
GCDM Executive Committee February 2013 Meeting

The meeting took place in Orlando, FL in order to plan for General Assembly and other yearly activities. Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions, and Stephen S. Bentley, new Minister of GCDM, were in attendance along with the rest of the members of the committee. Here are some photos of the meeting:

GCDM Executive Committee Update

The GCDM Executive Committee is getting ready for changes in July 2013 with several members serving their last term, nominations and new ethnic group representatives. The following list informs of those changes:

1. Serving their last term are Howard Coleman (National Convocation Representative) and Lester Brooks (Member-at-Large).

2. The two nominees for Member-at-Large are Will Selbee from First Christian Church in Bluefield, WV and Harvey Anderson from Bethel Christian Church in Coila, MS.

3. The three nominees representing the ethnic groups are Saitumua Tafaialii from First Congregational Christian Church of Samoa in Magna, UT (NAPAD), Brian Burton from 5th Christian Church in Cleveland, OH (National Convocation), and Efraín Rivera from Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (Discípulos de Cristo) del Norte in Orlando, FL (Hispanic Ministries).

For more information, questions and/or concerns, please contact: Archie Jenkins at acjenk@yahoo.com.
The “Blessings in a Backpack” Program

The Disciples Men from First Christian Church, Bedford, IN decided to help the “Blessings in a Backpack” program in our school system. Our approach would be in two directions:

First: through our church, and Second: through our community.

Blessings in a Backpack partners with America to ensure impoverished elementary school children are fed on the weekends throughout the school year. Our Disciples Men would like to help Blessings in a Backpack, an organization dedicated to helping those in need. Better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health and increased attendance have all been attributed to the success of this program.

After leaving school each Friday and boarding their school buses each child receives a plastic bag of healthy snack food. The value of this food is $2.00. There has been one item missing from their weekend bag, a cup of fruit. Our goal was to raise additional support money to supply a cup of fruit for each child.

First: from our church. Our Disciples Men have been serving “A Taste of Italy” Italian Dinner during the past five years. The dinner has been very successful in supporting the programs of Disciples Men. Last year we raised over $500.00 from our dinner. After our dinner this year on April 6th, we will donate all profit to benefit the “Blessings in a Backpack” program.

Second: through our community. As an officer of the Bedford Evening Lions Club, it was felt this “Blessings in a Backpack” program would be a great new event for our club to sponsor. Finding the right event to schedule and promote was the next challenge.

The event proposed was a “Fitness Challenge 5K Run & Walk” to take place on Saturday March 9th in Bedford. This first year Fitness Challenge event has just been completed which drew 121 competitors to test the inclines-included course.

This first Magnificent 7 Series race in our community will benefit the Lions Club’s new Blessings in a Backpack program as it raised over $1,850.00.

Sincerely,

Gary Ochs, Chairperson
Past President GCDM

“Trustworthy ... Loyal ... Helpful ... Friendly ... Courteous ... Kind ... Obedient ... Cheerful ... Thrifty ... Brave ... Clean ... Reverent”

These twelve items are a compass, a way of steering a life. They are the twelve points of the Boy Scout Law. As a volunteer for 28 years with the Boy Scouts of America and a church pastor for over 20 of those years, I have learned that the Scouting program promotes lasting values and can enhance the ministry of a church in its outreach to young men and women in the surrounding community. Disciples Men can make a valuable contribution. The national United Methodist Men have taken up Boy Scouting as part of their official ministry. In some areas, Methodist men are underwriting the cost of encampments and other Scouting events.

They are providing unit chartering locations and serving as unit committee members, leaders and commissioners. They see Scouting as an opportunity to reach out to a generation of young men and women, many of whom have no church home. Disciples Men could be involved in a similar way. If your local or regional men’s group is looking for a good project, consider Scouting. If you have interest or questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me. I am a member of the National Association of Disciples Scouters, and I would be delighted to speak with you.

You can reach me at:
Rev. Scott Thayer, PO Box 149, Bethany, WV 26032.
Phone: (304) 830-1393.
Email: sctthayer@gmail.com.
Welcome!

Rev. Stephen S. Bentley

NEW MINISTER OF DISCIPLES MEN CALLED

In a partnership between Disciples Home Missions, the General Conference of Disciples Men [GCDM], and the Christian Church in Ohio, the Rev. Stephen S. Bentley has been called to serve in a part-time position as Minister of Disciples Men. The Rev. Bentley will continue to serve in his current position as Regional Associate Pastor for the Christian Church in Ohio. Stephen’s primary role as Minister of Disciples Men is to help further organize, strengthen, and extend the ministries of Disciples Men throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, with specific focus on the spiritual formation and leadership development of young Disciples Men.

The Rev. Bentley is DHM’s contact person to field questions and inquiries about Disciples Men’s Ministries and help facilitate conversations between all expressions of the church: general, regional, and congregational, as well as with ecumenical and interfaith partners.

In close collaboration with the General Conference of Disciples Men, The Rev. Bentley will help to plan, strategize, and develop ways to resource and support Disciples Men’s ministries that are effective and growing throughout the life of our church, especially with a focus on developing the gifts and graces of a younger generation of Disciples Men. He will also assist the General Conference in conducting Annual Fund Drives and Endowment Fund Drives in cooperation with the staff of the Christian Church Foundation.

The Rev. Bentley graduated from Transylvania University in 1979 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Music Education, and from Lexington Theological Seminary in 1982 with a Master of Divinity. He has served churches in Pleasureville, KY; Nineveh, IN; Forest Park, OH; and the Hocking Valley Parish in southeast OH. He has been working in the Christian Church in Ohio since 2005 and resources the Ohio Disciples Men. He enjoys backpacking, hiking, photography and singing. He and his wife, Julie, have three children and 2 grandchildren.

At the most recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the GCDM on February 22-24, 2013, Ronald J. Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions, said: “The Rev. Stephen Bentley comes to us as a seasoned professional, dedicated to resourcing Disciples Men for effective ministry, in a partnership with the Ohio Region. Stephen will guide us as we seek to reach out to a new generation of men with a love for the church and a desire to make a positive impact on the world.”

Archie Jenkins, President of Disciples Men, said, “We welcome Rev. Stephen Bentley in his new position of Minister for Disciples Men’s Ministries. Steve will bring to the table his love for Disciples men and their work. He will be a great resource for helping Disciples men move forward. The entire General Conference of Disciples Men is looking eagerly towards the work we can all do together.”

Rev. Dr. Bill Edwards, Regional Pastor and President of the Christian Church in Ohio, said, “The Regional Church in Ohio is excited about this ministry opportunity to offer Steve’s gifts of leadership and passion for Men’s Ministry with the General Church. I am also excited about the partnership with Disciples Home Missions. This represents a “new model of ministry” and collaboration in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).”
2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 13-17, 2013 • ORLANDO, FLORIDA

LORD
TEACH US TO PRAY
2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 13-17, 2013 • ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Location: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida
Registration Opening Date: July 13, 2012
Early Registration Discounts Deadline: April 1, 2013
Disciples Men Luncheon: Wednesday, July 17, 2013 from 11:30am – 1:00pm
GCDM Executive Committee Business Meeting: Following Disciples Men Luncheon

A publication from: General Conference of Disciples Men
130 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3645

The Voice of Disciples Men

Ohio Region Men’s Spring Retreat
May 17 & 18, 2013 at Camp Christian

CRMR Men’s Conference
May 17-19, 2013 at Estes Park, CO

Nebraska Men’s RECHARGE and Work Projects
August 9 & 10, 2013

Ohio Region Men’s Fall Retreat
Sept 13-15, 2013 at Camp Christian

Kansas Region Men’s Retreat
Sept 27-28 at Disciples Center in Tamukoni

West Virginia Men’s Retreat
Oct 4 – 6, 2013

Northern California/Nevada Region Men’s Retreat
Oct 18-20, 2013

Upcoming Events

Tell us about upcoming events, gatherings and retreats. And don’t forget to send us pictures as well!