

31-Jan-11



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**RECIPES! WHO NEEDS 'EM?**

That pretty well sums up my sentiment when it comes to cooking. I enjoy cooking, but do not particularly like following a recipe. I'll look at them but only as a spring board for my gourmet improvements. They are so hard to read anyway, especially when I've just spilled tomato sauce on the page. Furthermore, the dish can always be improved. When the recipe calls for all-purpose flour, any cook worth his salt knows you should substitute whole wheat flour. Ingredient lists always call for too much sugar, and never enough eggs. Then there's the brilliant substitution of pinto beans for beef in Mexican casserole dishes.

By now, I'm sure you're aware that you're peering inside the mind of one of the world's foremost chefs. The challenge, however, is convincing my family of that fact. When dad's in the kitchen, suddenly going out to eat swells to majority opinion. Mercilessly, I get assaulted by complaints like, "Dad! What did you put in this stuff?" or, "Mom IS cooking tonight, isn't she?!!"

Joking aside, we are free to "improve" cooking recipes, but the recipe for true success and eternal life must not be tampered with. Far too many people approach the Bible the way I approach Betty Crocker, with a take it or leave it attitude. Unlike cooking recipes, the Holy Bible is absolutely perfect, exclusively revealing our only means of salvation, and God's will. When Jesus said, ***I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*** (John 14:6), He was not stating an opinion. He was proclaiming an eternal reality with nothing less than everlasting consequences. God's clear decree is, ***As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*** (Romans 14:11-12).

Tragically, so many go to meet the Lord every day, unprepared. Others recklessly sit as judge over the Bible. Instead, we should consider that God Almighty says, ***to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*** (Isaiah 66:2). How blessed are they who heed the truth ***that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live*** (Deuteronomy 8:3).

May you, by the quick and powerful "recipe" of God, enjoy salvation and sanctification in Jesus Christ the Lord. ***Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen*** (Jude 1:24-25).

Dan Gilmore  
Pastor, Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Home Sweet Home

When you read this today, Deb and I will be arriving home after 28 days of sabbatical. Thanks to all of you that have made this possible. We enjoyed our best time together in our 46 years together. We had time to rest, reflect, read the Word, pray, spend time alone with GOD, pray for you, and I read a new book by David Platt entitled "*Radical*". I will be talking to you more about this book in the future. I am excited about our days

ahead! GOD wants to do great and mighty things in all our churches. This is our day to advance the kingdom of GOD! I will be in the office Tuesday, travel to West Branch Wednesday for a meeting. I have appointments Thursday, organize a new church Sunday into a Church of the Nazarene, meet a church board on Monday night the 7th, preach a weekend revival February 11-13. It's great to be back at work!

Please call in your stats by 10:00 am Wednesday.

I will share more in the days ahead. Onward! Forward!

### **M11 CONFERENCE**

The Mission 2011 Conference will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky, February 21-23, 2011.

Registration fee is \$25 that will help scholarship college/university students.

Workshops are focusing on the Five Key Strategies for USA/Canada: Intentional Leadership Development, Vibrant Church Renewal, Clear and Coherent Theological Identity, Passionate Missional Outreach, and Multi-faceted New Church Development.

There is more information available on the M11 website. Visit [M11conference.org](http://M11conference.org) to find out more!

Pastors: If you plan on attending M11, you are invited to come by the NPH resource area to say hi and have any questions answered about any new upcoming resources for discipleship and ministry from NPH. Also, there is still time to order your *Ashes to Fire Planning Kit*.

### **TEAM DAY**

February 26, 2011

Perry High and Middle Schools

8:00 am - 3:45 pm

Mobilizing Michigan for Ministry

The keynote speaker is Dr. Nina G. Gunter, general superintendent emerita. She is a dynamic speaker with a heart for equipping churches and helping them reach out into their communities.

**Early Registration:** Postmarked by January 31, 2011

Adults and teens \$25

Vendors (\$25 for first person, \$10 for additional staff)

**Final Registration Deadline:** Postmarked by February 10, 2011

Adults and teens \$35

Vendors (\$35 for first person, \$15 for additional staff)

**Online Registration Cutoff:** February 13, 2011. **Late Registrations Not Accepted**

For more information, forms, and to register online, visit [www.minaz.org](http://www.minaz.org) beginning December 17, 2010.

TEAM Day 11 contacts: John & Darlene Harris, PO Box 678, Perry, MI 48872; 517-675-7442.

Lay Leadership & Clergy, Youth & Children's Workshops

**Council Members:** Help is still needed with setup, registrations, stuff bags, cleanup, room monitors, lunch ticket takers, faculty room hosts, name tag stuffers, etc. If you want to help you can come to TEAM Day for FREE! Register online at [www.minaz.org](http://www.minaz.org) and in the comments section, write:

- 1) That you are staff and what council you are with (EMD NMI Council)
- 2) Note whether you still have last year's shirt that you can wear or if you need a new one and what size
- 3) Will you be there Friday night to set up (4:00-8:00 pm) so we know how much pizza to order

## **DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE**

February 6	Trinity Agape Church
February 7	Beaverton Board Meeting
February 11-13	Revival at Fowlersville, Michigan
February 20-23	M11 Conference, Louisville, KY
February 26	TEAM Day in Perry, Michigan

Wayne H. Brown