

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
June 1, 2015-May 31, 2016

It is the mission of the PSW Movement to create a culture where leaders and local churches can fulfill the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment

To the pastors, delegates, and friends assembled for the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference of the Pacific-Southwest District, greetings.

I am honored to be making my first report to you as the District Superintendent. It is been a joy to build on the incredible foundation laid by Pastor Steve Babby during his thirty-nine years of faith-filled leadership. He has been a mentor to me over all of my ministry years, but none so much as he has been this past year. He has been a continual source of wisdom, insight, historical perspective, and guidance. He has done everything to support me in this first year of me living on the ragged edge of a sharp learning curve.

I am grateful that Pastor Steve agreed to continue in a part-time capacity as the District Administrator. In this role he navigated the sell of several properties:

- Chino Hills
- La Puente-Sunset
- Tranquil Property (owned by Sedona Christ Center Wesleyan Church)

The closing of these properties has strengthened the position of the PSW finances.

He also has worked with several of our local churches to clarify their incorporation status, represented the district on the Trustee Board of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, the Grand Opening of Village Church-Red Rock, AZ, and installed the new pastor at Made New Church, Hesperia, CA. And this is only a sample of how Pastor Steve has supported me and represented the PSW Movement. It is said that a person *cannot be two places at one time*, but in our case we can get pretty close to making that happen. **THANK-YOU PASTOR STEVE!**

**Barbara Anderson** accepted the position of my Executive Assistant. She is outstanding! She has handled so much for me. She is an individual who loves Jesus, enjoys working with our pastors, and **gets** our Movement Mission statement of culture creation. She is makes sure I stay on task in my areas of strength, she provides pastors with what is needed, when it is needed. She is the conduit between the district office and local church leaders. Her learning curve has been steep and she has exceeding in all areas. I am grateful for her.

When I assumed this role I shared with the conference that mine would be a leadership of transition. Never did I imagine there would be so much transition in this first year. I will cover some of these by categories.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

- This district office was relocated from San Diego to Roseville.
- The District Board of Administration was streamlined from 24 to 16 members
- **Bourne Burns** followed the long-tenure of Jon Farmer as Assistant DS and has built a fantastic DBMD team
- **Tim Kirkes** followed the long-tenure of Larry Orr as District Secretary and has learned quickly all that is needed in such a role and made it his own

I am grateful for the DBA. They have allowed me to adjust how we function as a district team. They have made some difficult decisions this past year, but each decision has made us stronger as a movement.

**Jim Goings**, who has served the district as treasurer for so many years, will be stepping down at the rise of this year's conference. He has done so much to mentor me in the budget and our financial uniqueness. He will be missed. Jim had a gift many in his position do not possess: he understood funds were to help drive a movement not be held in memorial for some future time. Jim, you have been incredible.

The DBA has selected Jeff Jennings, Lead Pastor of Sacramento-Faith Legacy Church, to fulfill the remainder of Jim's term.

I also want to thank **Dr. Mario Howell**, Pastor of Antioch Church Family. Mario serves on the DBA as a resource person for African-American ministries. He has given keen insight into this area. He has worked with me in several situations of both challenge and opportunity in the Greater San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area. He is a wisdom filled man, but, more importantly, he has been a friend and brother to me in ministry.

#### PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

Due to resignations or retirement we have had several pastoral transitions this past year. Larry Orr, Alan Veale and Larry Peltier retired; Greg Detwiler, Brett & Linda Hilgemann, Al Jolley, Cecil Lucas, and Nick Miller resigned their churches.

As a result we have eight new leaders in our churches:

Matt & Manya Bohannon	Escondido, New Hope Community Church
Johnny & Chelsea Burke	Marysville, New Beginnings Wesleyan Church
Micah & Bourne Burns	Encinitas, Encinitas Beach Chapel
Wade & Michele Hughes	Elk Grove, Lighthouse Wesleyan
James & Jennifer Moore	Hesperia, Made New
Sharon & Rex Philpot	Moreno Valley, Wesleyan Christian Fellowship
Scott & Ashley Stevenson	Scottsdale, Open Arms Church
Don & Andrea Towle	Chester, Chester Wesleyan Church

When Alan Veale retired in June 2015, AJ & Jennifer Anderson filled the role as Interim pastor at Open Arms, August 2015-July 2016. This couple did a great job preparing this local church for

their new pastor. AJ was well loved by the people in the church and the other pastors in the Eastern Zone of our movement. I am very thankful for the leadership he provided Open Arms.

## CHURCHES

This year we have had a blend of church closures, and mergers that resulted in new churches.

### **Mergers**

Pastor Tuma Johnson of International Christian Ministries (ICM) accepted a call to plant a church in the greater Dallas area. The ICM congregation was in need of a pastor. Pastor John Ojewole of Agape Bible Fellowship (ABF) was in need of property. The decision was made to merge these congregations. The result was **Agape International Church & Ministries**. A great thanks goes to Dr. Mario Howell as he worked with these two congregations to become one.

Lakeside, Living Hope closed and merged with Seven, San Diego. Lakeside, Seven Church under the leadership of Jeremy McGarity is now a part of our Movement. Seven brings a history of community engagement and Great Commission emphasis. The relationship between Pastor Jeremy, Lead Pastor Seven Church and Pastor Bryon Scott, Lead Pastor Living Hope (now assistant pastor, Seven Church) was critical in making a smooth and God honoring transition.

Legacy Church-Tucson, an Independent Church, merged with Foothills Community Church, Tucson

### **Closures**

Summit Church in Oakley, CA closed its doors. This congregation had diminished to a point it could not continue to sustain itself. They had their final service on May 22, 2016. I appreciate founding Pastor Chris Kelley for his 16 years of wonderful service. Chris and Rudonna are relocating to Washington State to plant a church with the Northwest District.

El Cajon, Maran Atha Ministry made the decision to pull out of the Wesleyan Movement and connect with a Baptist Group.

Three churches were approved for name changes

- Apache Junction Christian Community Church to Thrive Christian Community Church
- High Desert Christian Fellowship, Hesperia to Made New Community Church
- La Puente, Sunset Wesleyan to Hope Christian Community Church

Overall the churches in our movement are committed to Great Commission initiatives. We must continue to do all we can to keep the main thing, the main thing: **fulfilling the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.**

## GENEROSITY OFFERING:

This past year we initiated the Generosity Offering. We encouraged churches to take up a special offering between Thanksgiving and the first of the year to give away to a project or projects of

their choice. The churches invested in community programs, church plants, and missions work. We had 16 churches report what they gave and who they gave to. The total amount invested outside the walls of the local church was **\$26,683.00**. THANKS FOR PRACTICING A GENEROUS SPIRIT.

#### CHURCH MULTIPLICATION: 100 by 2025

We continue to place an emphasis on beginning new Faith Communities. The past year we launched three new works:

- Movement Church-Brea, CA: Jeremy Robertson, Planter
- Village Church-Red Rock, AZ: Ashley Jennings & Cody Bren, Planters
- Firewheel Church- Pacific Beach, CA: Jim Heidrick, Planter

The Village Church Planting Team arrived on-site in June 2105. Over the past 13 months 45 children, teens, and adults have walked into a relationship with Jesus.

I am very grateful for both Crossroads Church-Fair Oaks, CA and Lighthouse Wesleyan Church-Elk Grove, CA for investing people and finances in the mission field of Red Rock, AZ. Without the sacrifice of these two PARENTING churches Village Church would not have the great beginnings it has. We need more of our established churches to help start new faith communities.

Firewheel had its first preview service on May 29 with 60 in attendance.

Faith Legacy-Sacramento will be starting an extension site in Antelope area of Sacramento this fall. Antelope is a community northeast of the Faith Legacy main campus. Faith Legacy is going into a community instead of inviting the community to come to them.

Christ Center Wesleyan-Sedona, AZ generously gave a planting gift of \$40,000.00 to invest in PSW Movement expansion efforts. And I want to thank Skyline Church for its monthly investment into PSW church multiplication this past year.

The more we give to church planting, the more we can give away.

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A HUGE personal highlight for me is the time I am able to spend with our Lead Pastors through Leadership Connection. These eight times (Jan-May and Sept-Oct) a year gatherings in five different locations (Bay Area, Sacramento, Tucson, San Diego, and Los Angeles) allow me to catch the heart of the leaders on the front line, grassroots level. An environment has been created where we can be vulnerable, transparent, and accountable. I love the peer learning that goes on in these. I am grateful for leaders willing to journey together.

This past year I have completed my sixth Emerging Leader Network. This is a group committed to the development of the PSW Movement leadership pipeline. Chris Snider, Ricardo Garza, Jaime Perez, Nathan Jennings, and Wade Hughes thanks for sharpening me.

Here are few last quick hit highlights:

- DBA Retreat
- Pastors speaking in to my life
- Personal involvement in a *Disciple-making Leadership Community*
- Coaches Clinic
- Minster & Mates Retreat as we simply worshiped and celebrated the presence of God the first night
- Sharing my heart and vision for the PSW Movement @ the M&M Retreat
- Trip to Cuba to equip Cuban leaders
- Washington Man of Prayer Event

In wrapping up this report I want us to remember that we are a team. We are in this together. God has called each of us for such a time as this to impact this corner of his Kingdom for the gospel. Every one of us together is stronger than any one of us alone.

We must rely on and trust the empowering of the Holy Spirit to provide us what we need to carry out the task before us. “But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power” (Acts 1:8).

Let us determine to be OPEN, READY & BRAVE. Listen to God (Open), Discern what God is saying (Ready), and Act on what God says (Brave).

Believing in you,  
Phil Stevenson  
District Superintendent