



## Reflection

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are enjoying the warm season of Advent. It is beneficial for us to take this time at the end of the year to reflect on our *lives, relationships and experiences of faith*. Even though we may have experienced suffering and heartache, we still want to raise a prayer of thanksgiving to our kind and benevolent Heavenly Father; the fount of every blessing. As our Chief Apostle said last year, "But thanks be to God. Everything we do as children of God...must have this starting point; thankfulness! Let's be thankful to God." This may not always be easy, but deeper pondering and meditation will open the proper perspective.

This time also gives us the opportunity to repair and renew our relationships in our family, in our congregation and the community around us. In order to serve Christ to the fullest it is necessary, as those born of God, to maintain open, honest and loving bonds between us. This is the basis for a healthy congregation.

Let us recount the rich experiences of faith our Heavenly Father has led us through over the past months. Only in such a way can we learn from them and improve our individual spiritual health and vitality.

Come dear brothers and sisters let us complete the year in true Christian fellowship and prepare ourselves for the time before us; it brings the return of the Lord! I wish for you a warm comfort from the Holy Spirit in these days and new sensations of Godly zeal and enthusiasm for the days of the new year ahead. ❀

Receive loving greetings from our dear Chief Apostle, and all the apostles.  
Yours, with Love,



Leonard R. Kolb

## Stepping Forward 2010 A work of ministry

Shortly we will enter a new year together. As I consider the year 2009, a multitude of images flood my soul accompanied by an overwhelming gratitude toward our good and loving Heavenly Father. Together we have experienced in so many ways, His providence and abundant mercies. I would like to echo the emphatic exhortation that our dear Chief Apostle engraved within us on Pentecost in Chicago: "Thanks be to God!"

Also, I want to express my deep appreciation for your many acts of kindness, your prayers and your dedication in serving Christ. Our congregations are enriched daily by your soulful investment of time, effort and love towards one another.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 5:11-12)*

In 2009, we carefully examined the concept of self responsibility. This newsletter contained an ongoing series of articles on the subject of "Keep Yourself". In 2010, it is important to retain this important teaching and build incrementally on the foundation of self responsibility as we Step Forward toward healthy congregations.

In fact, our 2010 Devotional (available now on our web site) is entitled "Keep Yourself..." and contains related excerpts from our Chief Apostle's writings and divine services. *Continued on page 2*



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As discussed in our recent worker's meeting broadcast, we would like to pursue a teaching in 2010 called "A Work of Ministry". This theme comes directly from a meeting that our Chief Apostle held where he illuminated this oft quoted concept in a fresh and innovative manner.

In the past, we often focused our attention on apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers particularly in their role as ordained ministers. Each of these offices represents a certain unique gift of ministry necessary for the edifying of the body of Christ. However, let us examine the specific sequence of this Bible passage. Notice that these ministries have been given "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry". What can we conclude from this? The saints (all the members of our church) also must have a work of ministry that results in the edifying of the body of Christ!

It is my firm belief that every member has an indispensable role in this process; we are each the recipient of a unique gift of ministry from our Heavenly Father. Likewise, he has given each member a calling; an opportunity to dedicate their unique gift of ministry

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to their congregation which collectively constitutes the body of Christ. Here we see another, deeper nuance of the phrase "serving Christ by serving others".

Now we come to the central, all important question: What is your gift of ministry?

Once again, this is a matter of self responsibility, because only you can answer that question. I would encourage us all to take a journey in 2010 of introspection and self discovery. God will surely reveal this mystery if we search within ourselves honestly and courageously.

In the interests of helping each soul find and develop their gift, throughout 2010 we will provide resources and an ongoing series of workshops to all interested members designed for just this purpose.

Additionally, each member's journey may be aided by enlightened and sensitive support from our ordained ministers. We will also provide specialized training and resources in the interests of creating a culture of shared congregational leadership, collaboration and learning.

**Stepping Forward** is a long term, multi faceted plan to move us toward our *vision* of congregational health, growth and completion.

**2009: Individual Health** - Self-Responsibility & "Keep Yourself"

**2010: Congregational Health** - The work of ministry





In conclusion, let us consider how healthy each congregation will be when every God given gift is employed in the service of Christ. How light and joyful the work will be when jointly we engage everyone under the impulses of the Holy Spirit. My hope is that all may feel the benefits of Stepping Forward together. 🌟

## Youth News

### 2010 Youth Convention

Plans for the 2010 Youth Convention continue to evolve as dozens of creative individuals from across the country work with the fifteen functional teams that are organizing the event. The Youth Convention, to be held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, with the theme, iServe Christ, will showcase the iServe3 activities that our young people have been involved in, present a public concert designated to help a worthy charity, and offer numerous activities and opportunities for our youth to enjoy and grow closer together in. These national youth events always create life-enhancing experiences that continually remain in the soul.

The cost to attend the Convention is already set at \$300. This early notice should give every young person adequate time to raise funds for the occasion. This Convention promises to be a meaningful and rewarding experience for all who attend.

### iServe3 Update

Young people across the country enjoy getting involved in special serving events for their families, congregations, and their communities. To see what our youth are up to, check out the church website at [www.nac-usa.org](http://www.nac-usa.org) and do a search on iServe. 🌟



## Happy 85th Birthday to District Apostle Helper Fendt

Recently, the retired District Apostle Helper John W. Fendt celebrated his 85th birthday surrounded by family and long time friends including the District Apostle Kolb. The Apostle Fendt has lived an exemplary life of ministry and service to Christ over a career spanning 50 years. It is fitting to celebrate with him and extend the very best wishes from the entire district where he forged a wonderful path of blessing and touched so many lives. A short bio follows:

The Apostle has carried various ministries within the district since 1946 after his discharge from active duty in the U.S. armed forces. He and his wife Lillian have been married for 57 years. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He was ordained as an Apostle in 1967 by the Chief Apostle Schmidt. As an Apostle he served various districts within the domestic USA and over 50 missionary countries around the world.

Please join us in wishing the Apostle Fendt a very blessed birthday and best wishes for the year to come. 🌟





## Upcoming Events

### Looking back...

The year 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the official formation of the New Apostolic Church. In the interests of documenting our heritage we would like to form a working group across all our districts to help accumulate the history of the NAC in the USA. If you have an interest in participating in this group, please discuss with your district leader.

### National Pillar Weekend in Miami FL

On the weekend of February 19-21 of 2010, Miami, FL will be hosting a National Pillar weekend with our District Apostle Kolb. All young people 21 and older are invited. Online registration will be open between December 1st and January 1st. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Miami, as well as the cost of 2 meals and a \$75 housing fee. All other costs, including transportation during the weekend will be covered. More detailed information will be posted soon on [www.nac-usa.org](http://www.nac-usa.org).

### Chief Apostle Visit 2010

The Chief Apostle will be visiting the USA on September 5, 2010 to hold a divine service in Detroit. The Masonic Temple in Detroit has been selected as the location for this festive service and will accommodate seating in excess of 4,000. All are welcome to attend.

In addition, a national rector's conference will be held during the same weekend. It will be a historic occasion in which our ministers will have the opportunity to participate in educational sessions, discuss matters of church governance and spend time with our Chief Apostle in an informal meeting environment.

### March 7, 2010

**Service for the Departed.** Let us create congregations of prayer and compassion to support the work of redemption in the eternal realms.

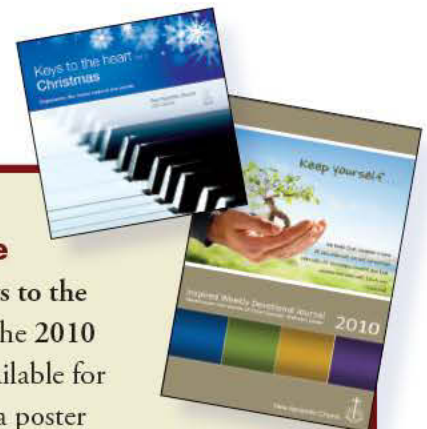
## Perspectives: Apostle greetings

In the interests of clarification, I would like to address the subject of apostle's greetings issued at the beginning of a Divine service. It is common practice for our ministers to begin the service with greetings from the apostle. It has been done with such consistency over the years that some may assume it is an official part of the service. It is not. Biblically, we can see the origins of this practice within the letters sent by the early Apostles, particularly the Apostle Paul. Often they began or concluded their letter with their personal greetings in the form of an endearment to the recipient.

After a discussion with our Chief Apostle however, it is clear that this practice is somewhat unique to our USA district. I would ask our ministers to refrain from issuing these greetings *as a matter of course* and limit their use only to those occasions when their apostle has specifically extended them.

I mention this to you so that you will not be concerned by their absence. It in no way indicates an absence of unity by the minister with his apostle or that the service is lacking in foundation. The connection with the apostolate of Christ is created through the opening prayer. If the minister receives greetings from his apostle he will add them to the divine service and they will serve as a special endearment for the congregation. ☀

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### New items for sale

A new piano CD, "Keys to the heart-Christmas" and the 2010 Devotional are now available for order. Please watch for a poster in your local congregation or visit the NAC-USA web site [www.nac-usa.org](http://www.nac-usa.org) for details.