Continued from page 1

Active ~ Keep yourself *active*. From a child to a senior member, everyone can be an active participant in the family of God. For example, giving testimony is a life long task. Also, ask the Lord to show you how to put your talents to use in the congregation and continue serving Him even when difficulties arise or situations come about that you do not like.

Waiting ~ Keep yourself *waiting* for the day of the Lord. You might have the feeling that Jesus has put off His coming for too long. It's not your task to think about when He will come; your task is to be worthy and to prepare for Him every day. Don't allow yourself to become impatient or think it may be another 20, 40, 50 years. The wise servant waits for the Lord every day.

Empathetic ~ Keep yourself *empathetic*. When you keep yourself in fellowship, you grow in understanding of one another. To go even deeper than understanding, empathize with one another. This isn't sympathizing where you feel sorry for one another. Empathizing is when you put someone else's shoes on, step into his life, and begin to see the world and the conditions he is living in just the way he sees it.

Renewed ~ Keep yourself *renewed*. Continue to search for your talent and renew your gifts of grace that have been given to you by God. Not that you feel you have to do all the work, but that you remain inwardly tied in, inwardly connected in your prayer life, and concerned for each other.

Servant Mindedness ~ Keep yourself *servant minded*. "For though I am free from all men, *I have made myself a servant to all*, that I might win the more…" (1 Corinthians 9:19 NKJV, italics added).

The Message Bible is even clearer: "Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, *I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all* in order to reach a wide range of people…"

In your daily activities, you may feel at times "free from all men;" that is to say independent, perhaps even a little "aloof," from those who sometimes plague you with requests and questions in your life. However, a measure of "servant mindedness" and responsibility is necessary in order to accomplish greater things and to do a more far-reaching work. ✹

National Day of Prayer

Thursday May 7th

We will observe this by moving the May 6 service to May 7. Inadvertently, this special day was left off our annual divine service schedule. Let us join with all of the USA citizens to especially thank our Heavenly Father for His grace and goodness over our nation and ask that He continue His blessing on our land and communities. May we further use this event to look deeper into our individual prayer lives and ponder ways to more effectively move the heart of our Heavenly Father, focusing on thanksgiving, worship and praise. ✹

Upcoming events

Confirmation 2009 ~ As congregations, let us support our young Christians in their profession of faith!
April 25/26, 2009 ~ Our Chief Apostle will visit Panama/ Nicaragua.
May 31, 2009 ~ Let us continue to set our hearts aflame for the Pentecost Service with our Chief Apostle in Chicago that it may accelerate us to our completion.

NEW! **September 5, 2010** ~ This date will find us together with our **Chief Apostle in DETROIT, MICHIGAN!** For this festive event, we will seek a venue large enough to open the way for anyone who desires to be in this service.

Health, growth, completion

Vision

New Apostolic Church
USA District News
Spring 2009

Welcome!

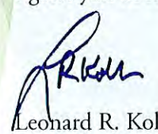
My very dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the first edition of our USA District News in a new format – both printed and electronically on our website (www.newapostolicchurch.org). This publication is intended for our members and friends and will be published quarterly during each season of the year. In this way, pertinent developments in the USA church, upcoming events, and special thoughts from our Chief Apostle and the apostles can be shared with our entire membership.

In this first edition, the focus for this year 2009 will be highlighted – "Perspectives on Self Responsibility," as initiated by the Chief Apostle in the divine service from October 2008 in New York. In each 2009 edition, a list of various insights into this very important aspect of our New Apostolic life will be built. The newsletters will also feature various articles regarding our youth and children as well as other groups, such as seniors, music, etc. I hope you find them interesting and enjoyable.

With greetings from the Chief Apostle and united with the USA apostles,

I greet you in love,



Leonard R. Kolb

Perspectives on self-responsibility:
Keep yourself 1 JOHN 5:18

Pure ~ Keep yourself *pure* in heart. How do you know if your heart is pure? Here is a question you may consider asking yourself. Q: When our Heavenly Father looks into your heart and thoughts, do you try to hide those thoughts? A: If you feel your thoughts would not be pleasing, that's a sign that your heart is not completely pure.

Humble ~ Keep yourself *humble*. In Revelation 1:17, Apostle John saw the Lord Jesus and "fell down as dead." An indication of God's nearness in your life is represented when you fall down and realize that you are nothing and God is so great. Humbleness is also indicated through your behavior towards your brothers and sisters. Continue to possess the power to ask for forgiveness and admit your mistakes.

Joyful ~ Keep yourself *joyful*. To be a child of God is wonderful; it is a treasure, more than anything else in life. There are times when you rejoice and other times when you may be depressed living through situations of life where joy seems absent. Then strive for this joy and remind each other of this!

Watchful ~ Keep yourself *watchful*. There are many opinions today and circumstances that could influence you in your life of faith. Always be aware of the different spirits, and do not let them enter your heart. Continue to pray! Jesus said "Watch and pray." This makes you strong and gives you the possibility to be watchful until the end.

Continued on page 4

Youth

iServe^3

Serving Christ in my family, my congregation, my community.

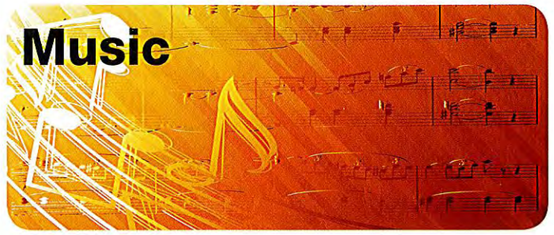
Within the iServe3 initiative, young people will experience "serving the power of Three" by engaging body, soul and spirit in choosing specific endeavors to serve Christ through their families, congregations and communities. To begin experiencing iServe3, consider the following:

1 Within your **Families**, create new family traditions in serving; commit to pray more with your family and for your family, read the bible together and talk to your parents face to face for 10 minutes every day. As Joshua said, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord". (Joshua 24:15 NCV)

2 Within your **Congregations**, spend time with the Sunday school children, visit senior members, plan and serve at fellowships, musical presentations… to name a few.

3 Within your **Communities**, serve at homeless shelters, host a food drive, initiate a 30 hour famine – www.30hrfamine.org, engage in Relay for Life – www.relayforlife.org, etc.

As an active participant in the iServe3 initiative, you will experience the joy of giving and growth in fellowship when you serve together as a group, develop servant leadership while living your faith and deepen your personal relationship with the Lord. ✹



Music companion

Feel free to register at www.musiccompanion.org. This site has been developed to assist organists, choir members, choir leaders and ministers in hearing and viewing songs and hymns found within the music resources of the New Apostolic Church. Users of this website will be required to register to gain access to these music resources. ✹

Choir in midweek service

At a meeting held in January, district leaders discussed the idea of allowing the choir to wear attire other than black and white for midweek divine services. This may aid those that come directly from work and opens a palette of possibilities for our choir members. Naturally, out of respect for our Heavenly Father, the sanctuary, and our brothers and sisters, we want to dress in manner befitting our Church. This does not change our program for Sunday nor does it compel anyone to not wear black and white. This will be discussed with the area apostle, bishop, and/or district leader and implemented as desired in each district.

Further, we understand that slacks are acceptable for our sisters to wear in our church choir. Please do not mistake this as "all should wear black slacks." Either black slacks or black skirts are options for services. ✹

New Apostolic Church Vision statement
A church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.

Children

National Sunday School Coordinator Retreat

May 1-3, 2009
Columbus, Ohio

All District Sunday School Coordinators are invited to attend the 2009 National Sunday School Coordinator Retreat in Columbus, Ohio beginning Friday May 1st through Sunday May 3rd, 2009. The coordinators will participate in interactive workshops that will facilitate their training as Sunday school champions in their respective areas. Topics for the weekend include: Servant Leadership, Children's Service, and How to Build Strong Sunday School Programs. In addition, new National Sunday School initiatives will be introduced and special training will be provided in order to begin these initiatives in all USA Districts by the fall of 2009. We look forward to an inspiring weekend in which we will all continue on our quest to help our children Learn, Love and Live their faith. ✹

MP3 players – Puerto Rico

Today technology is all around us and we can see how children enjoy using it on a daily basis at school and at home. With this in mind, the Puerto Rico congregation purchased mp3 players for each child in the Sunday school and loaded an audio version of the New Testament on each one. Their goal was to have the students listen to the New Testament in preparation for this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS). They gave mp3 players to them in January with the goal of completing the New Testament by May 30th. The New Testament has 27 books which have 23 hours of audio. In order to complete this goal, they will need to average an hour a week. To keep the students on track, a worksheet has been developed that will be completed after listening to each book of the bible. This gives the students the opportunity to review, discuss and understand the books of the bible better. A Certificate of Completion will be given to each student to reward his or her accomplishment! ✹

Mis amados Hermanos y Hermanas,
Yo los saludo en su idioma natal y anticipo el momento para visitarlos. Deseandoles muchas bendiciones y alegria al continuar en este ano. Con amor,

親愛的主內弟兄姊妹們，
我特別的向你們問候，期待有機會來拜訪中國區的教會。願神的祝福和喜樂常與你們同在。
愛你們的，區使徒

My dear brothers and sisters, again and again,
I am deeply moved by your many cards, messages and expressions of love and support in my new ministry. Your support with God's blessing will advance us forward to our completion.

ER Kolb