

ICOC Singles Service Team Report

Spring 2014

The Singles Service Team continues to happily move forward with our work! We appreciate all of your support and prayers.

There have been two important changes to our team. First and foremost, Wilner Cornely with his current health situation is currently unable to serve on the Singles Service Team. We will not immediately replace him in hopes that he will be able to rejoin us in time.

Secondly, Sheridan and Debbie Wright, in consideration of their considerable other responsibilities, have been asked by their leadership team to be sparing in their participation of the singles service team. They do shepherd all the singles in New York, which is why they will remain our point of communication and contact for that group. They will stay abreast of our work through our conference call notes and the Reeds will help me keep them in the loop of communication. If we need anything specifically of the Wrights, we will simply give them a call. They will not however be expected on our conference calls nor will they be traveling to Denver for our series of meetings in April.

Service Team:

Canada: Howard Martin

Caribbean: Wilner Cornely**

Florida/La.: Matt Newburg, Deena Newburg

Heartland: Rob Milner, LaShonda Milner

Midwest: Bill Moulden, Kristen Moulden

New England: Larry Reed, Kim Reed

New York: Sheridan Wright* Debbie Wright*

Southeast: Lin Ottenweller, Mark Ottenweller, Ronnie Rose, Shamarra Rose

Southwest: Floyd Grossett, Tamara Grossett, Angela Williams, Marshall Mead

Texas: Adam Smith, Bethany Smith

Service Team sub-committees:

- **Singles "Regional Think Tanks" (Mark and Lin Ottenweller):**

It is noted that there is only one single person on the Singles Service Team. The committee was concerned that the singles themselves would not be adequately represented in discussions and decisions being made. Therefore it was suggested we create a Singles Sub-committee to operate as a "think-tank" of sorts to both identify and rectify current issues facing the singles ministry. This group will consist of positive, skilled and influential singles around the kingdom who will generate discussion around the needs of singles in their geographic region of churches. They are to report back to the committee proposals that would effectively address the identified needs. On our last conference call in January we finalized plans and have begun to assemble this team.

- **Conference Planning Committee (Wade and Debbie Cook)**

We are happy to announce that plans for the 2014 International Singles Conference are progressing well.

We will convene in Denver, September 26-28, 2014 at the Downtown, Hyatt Convention Center. Initial information is already up on Disciples Today and we are



on track to open on-line registration by February 1, 2014. In terms of future sites, we are mindful that the Cornelys' full attention is now on Wilner's health, so the 2018 prospective location of Jamaica might need to change. We did not see the need to make any changes as of yet. We remain on schedule for our future ISCs to be:

2016 - St. Louis

2018 - Jamaica

- **Communications Sub-Committee (Adam and Bethany Smith):**

Communication has been this committee's greatest bogie and we have been going after this issue with vigor. Each of the Service Team members have assembled a list of single leaders in their US geographic regions and are this spring setting conference calls with them. In March, we will begin the task of connecting worldwide to each of the international geographic regions. We will be leaning heavily on Roger Lamb and others to help us thoughtfully and strategically expand our reach and communication around the world.

Adam and Bethany Smith are the Disciples Today Singles editors and are tasked with finding fresh and consistent material to put on the website. They are doing a great job!!! As you know, late last year we launched a fresh, ICOC Facebook page in which we currently have 1,291 likes! If you haven't done so yet, please like us!!!!

- **Demographics Sub-Committee (Floyd and Tamara Grossett)**

Another of our primary 20/20 goals was to gather and maintain accurate information on the size and scope of our ministry. We began that data collection last week and are hopeful to have our numbers in by February 28, 2014. This will not replace a more comprehensive "qualitative" survey we plan to launch later in the year. This first effort is simply to define in a general sense the makeup of our worldwide ministry. Everyone felt that to gauge our progress, as well as to chart a course forward, we needed to have some baseline information as to who we are. We believe these numbers will go a long way to helping arrive at that goal.

Finally, I am happy to report that we have had our third productive conference call in January. Additionally, in lieu of meetings in Singapore where a significant number of our service team will be unable to attend, we are meeting in Denver, April 10-12 for a series of face to face meetings where amongst several other agenda items, we will formulate concrete plans on how to integrate the rest of our worldwide singles ministries.

Grace and Peace,

Wade Cook