



## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

“Encouraging Minnesota Seniors to Pray, Serve and be a Light to this Generation”  
Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God  
1315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis MN 55404  
Web Site: [mnaog.org/2ndhalf](http://mnaog.org/2ndhalf) Phone: 763-221-4469  
Facebook: Minnesota AG Second Half Ministries



**Martha & Allen Tennison**

**A Note from the Director** – Just a quick report on our fall retreat held at Lake Geneva Christian Center, September 7-9<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a special time of blessing with Allen and Martha Tennison as our speakers. The Kingery Family started our retreat off with a delightful evening of music. Dan & Marlene Turner were our worship leaders. Two informative workshops were presented by Darrel Amiot and Jim Olsen. Our Friday morning prayer time was led by Kevin Senapatiratne, and Missionaries Rocky and Sherry Grams



**The Kingery Family**

presented their ministry during the ‘Missions Moment’ on Saturday morning. Many good comments on our speakers and musicians. We enjoyed great Minnesota weather as well. Due to the National Senior Conference in Branson September 4-6, 2024, which some may want to attend, we have moved our 2024 retreat to September 30 – October 2. I hope you will plan to be with us!

*Bruce Talso, Director*

**Dan Parotti’s “Devotional Road”** - Dan is the Missions and Senior Adults pastor at Cedar Valley Church in Bloomington. He is also a member of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Ministry committee. Here, Dan outlines his mission trip with us.

“I will be undertaking an eight-week missions journey beginning October 15 that involves riding my motorcycle 9,000 miles from Minneapolis all the way to San Francisco do Sul, Brazil. The purpose of my trip is really two-fold; to live out my faith devotionally and to engage missionally. I hope to encourage others to do the same. As I head south, I will be serving alongside missionaries and local pastors in each of the 13 countries I travel through. Whether it be construction, maintenance, painting, cleaning, outreach, feeding programs, worship, or teaching, I’ll be ready to serve in any way I can. It is also my mission to share the difference Christ has made in my life, with someone different each day that I will travel. I’ll be sharing my experiences with you on YouTube, Facebook, and other social media platforms. I will be posting daily update videos of exciting riding moments, conversations with locals, border crossings and ministry moments. I will also be posting missionary interviews and prayer moments from high places that look over the cities where the missionaries are working. More specifically regarding prayers, much of my route will consist of the Pan-American highway and is considered mostly safe. At the same time, it is not without concerns. I know that God is already with me, but would ask that you pray for my continued safety along the way. Pray that I would be free from injury, accident, breakdowns, and thefts. Also, for smooth border crossings through every county I travel.”



**During our fall retreat**, Dan rode his motorcycle into the worship center and presented his proposed trip to those in attendance. We then laid hands on him and offered prayer for his safety and blessing while on his journey. We encourage you to pray for Dan as well. He will be giving us a full report when he returns in December, and we will share some of the reports with you in



our next newsletter. We invited Martha Tennison to get on Dan’s motorcycle for a photo op. Being the spry lady that she is, she accepted our invitation! And here she is! That is one big bike for a little lady!

## What Is Operation Christmas Child?



The Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible

way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received. Since 1993, **Operation Christmas Child** has collected and delivered more than 100 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories. In 2023, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children. This year, Operation Christmas Child will celebrate its 30th year of ministry!

**Anyone can pack a shoebox** with school supplies, personal care items, and fun toys, during **National Collection Week (Nov. 13–20, 2023)**, Samaritan's Purse will collect gift-filled shoeboxes at more than 4,500 drop off locations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Learn how to pack a shoebox, view gift suggestions, find the nearest drop-off location, at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ). Do not include candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; or aerosol cans. Participants can also donate \$10 per shoebox.

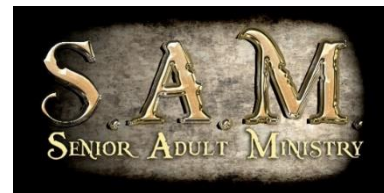
**More than 10.5 million shoebox** gifts were collected globally in 2022, 9.3 million from the U.S. alone. In 2023, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoeboxes to reach another 11 million children. Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love. Since 2009, 35.4 million shoebox recipients have participated in a 12-lesson discipleship course, "The Greatest Journey." More than 24.9 million children have graduated from this program with over 17.4 million boys and girls making decisions for Christ.

**Editor's note:** although the collection week is about here, you still have time to prepare a box and drop it off at a location near you before November 20th. Go to their web page (see above) enter your zip code, click on "find location" and the location near you will be shown. Let's share our joy with children around the world.



**Do you want to begin a seniors ministry in your church,** or give your present ministry a little more zip? We invite you to send for the 35-page manual "**2<sup>ND</sup> Half Ministries**" written. by Dr. Ray James of the Potomac A/G District. We will mail you a free copy at your request to "**MN 2nd Half Ministry, 10609 Sunset Road, Minneapolis MN 55443.**"

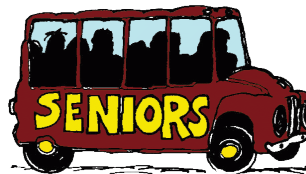
THE A/G NATIONAL  
MINISTRY DEPT.  
SPRINGFIELD MO  
Bob Cook, National  
Director



**National SAM Conference – Branson MO**  
September 4- 6, 2024 The Hilton Hotel

### **Primetime Magazine**

Official publication of the National Seniors Department is FREE by going to [sam.ag.org](http://sam.ag.org) click on "Primetime sign up."



### **SENIORS ON THE GO**

We are planning a bus tour to Branson for the National Seniors Conference in September. The tour will include a few other events in addition to the conference. The second tour will be more local and will probably be scheduled for May or early June. We will be able to give you more details in our next newsletter in January.



THE  
MINNESOTA  
SCHOOL OF  
MINISTRY  
PAM LUND, DIRECTOR



**The Minnesota School of Ministry (MNSOM)** is a part of a nationwide Assemblies of God ministry to help men and women 18 or older answer the call of God on their lives for ministry. There are 38 District Schools of Ministry across the United States. MNSOM operates in collaboration with the Minnesota District Council and the Midwest Latin American District of the A/G.

**The typical MNSOM** student is pursuing the call of God on their lives to enter into full time vocational ministry; a call that came to them later in life. Due to distance, those who serve in rural Minnesota communities have the additional challenge of travel limitations and expenses. MNSOM fills these crucial needs within the Minnesota District by providing non-traditional education formats that allows participation by all. It provides the academic requirements for those pursuing Assemblies of God credentials for the first time or for current AG ministers choosing to upgrade their current credentials.

**The 2024 Second Half Ministries Legacy Scholarship Project** will generously invest in the lives of those who are answering the call of God on their lives, particularly to those in rural areas who have little or no funds to grow their ministry. We will formally introduce this project in January 2024 inviting you to share financial gifts during the year to assist MNSOM in providing scholarships to those interested friends. Information on how you may participate will be included in our next newsletter. *Bruce Talso, Director*