

GSAE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2009-2010

INTRODUCTION

During my second term as President of the Greater Syracuse Association of Evangelicals, this past year I and our executive committee initiated several new strategies to enhance our purposes as stated in our brochure as follows:

- I. **Purpose No #1:** "*To unite publicly across denominational and other lines those that are solidly identified with historic, biblical Christianity,*" (as it is expressed in our doctrinal statement.) This year we were very intentional in also trying to build bridges between the inner city and the suburbs, as well as between the black and white segments of evangelical churches. As such we promoted the following programs:
 - a. Pastors Reconciliation Breakfast at North Syracuse Baptist Church on October 24th with guest speaker David Anderson, author of the book *Gracism* (vs. Racism) who as an African American Pastor of a large multicultural church addressed the topic.
 - b. Pro-Life Issues in the Inner City at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church on January 23rd with Arnold Culbreath who as an African American talked particularly about the effects of abortion in the African American communities and what has been called "*The Black Genocide.*"
 - c. Presenting The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance at Ling Ling restaurant on February 9th with Ken Reed, their President along with some other members of IMA. Ken told us what their organization is and some of what it does in the inner-city with particular challenges to the African American churches.
 - d. Caring Ministries in the Inner City at Ling Ling restaurant on April 13th with Pastor Jim Gepheart from *Father's Heart Ministries* and his out reach to several different immigrant groups, as well as Deborah Parsons who is initiating a new ministry called *Exodus House* for women supported by Grace Baptist Church.
 - e. National Day Of Prayer at the County Court House on May 6th when we had the *Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance* and the *Coalition of United Pastors* (both of which are African American Pastor's groups) conduct the entire program.

We were delighted with these meetings to express our unity, amidst our diversity, with particular efforts to engage the African American Pastors. And we can only hope the bridges we have tried to build will bring greater unity to our evangelical ministries.

II. PURPOSE #3: *"To publicize and sponsor, when possible and appropriate, public expressions of our Lord's words and works, in joint evangelical witness to the larger community."* This past year we instituted a web site for GSAE entitled GSAEministrynetwork.org which is maintained by Vince Acquilino and includes (a) our statement of faith, (b) our statement of purposes, (c) our program calendar for the year, (d) and archives of our radio program. It also included an endorsement of my plan for a Prayer Conference which had to be cancelled. However I believe we can further fulfill our purpose and will be organizing a special committee to further evaluate our web site policies and practices so we can better serve the evangelical community and I would welcome any of your suggestions and comments.

III. PROGRAMS:

1. This past January at the invitation of WMHR, we instituted a new radio program on every Saturday from 11:55am to noon entitled *FRONTIERS: Defending our Freedom and Faith*. Thus far we have dealt with issues such as The Manhattan Declaration, The Separation of Church and State, Pro-life and this next month, The Legal War of Same-sex Marriage. The programs are brief and to the point, and often focus on interviews with people who have expertise and experience in the areas discussed. I have thus far had guests like Tony Perkins, Kirby Anderson and Erwin Lutzer, as well as others from our own community. In addition WMHR has asked me to do Open Mike once a month and from time to time we will deal with these same issues on this call-in program.
2. Last September we also had a mini-prayer summit in the city and had 26 participants with a general consensus among some of our GSAE leaders that the Lord was pleased and blessed this expression of Psalm 133.

IV. PLANS

As our Executive Committee meets after this meeting we will begin to plan next years program calendar, which will be thematically unified around the themes of **PRAYER AND REVIVAL**. Next year I am planning a mini-prayer summit for September 16th with leaders from Concerts of Prayer in New York City and will ask GSAE to co-sponsor that event. We are all agreed that we need a work of God in our churches to reach our city and believe that an emphasis on prayer needs to be encouraged by GSAE.

In closing I want to thank the members of the committee for their partnership and part they each played in this past years program and especially wish Bob Richardson and Jim Stone the best and as they follow the Lord in other directions.

Dr. Bruce W. Jones, June 6th, 2010