

Advent Christian Eastern Region

President's Report

It has been my privilege to serve our Eastern Region Church family these past 2 years. When I agreed to serve I was unaware of the immensity of the responsibilities that lay before me. But as I look back over these past two years, I can see the hand of the Lord in this decision. The major portion of my responsibilities include providing leadership at meetings such as the annual convention, regional board meetings, and executive board meetings, provide counsel and guidance with Supt. Twitchell, and various administrative activities.

It is a pleasure to serve alongside the other board members as we attempt to faithfully oversee the ministry of the ERA. This past year included, along with Vice President John Tate, providing a limited amount of coverage while Supt. Twitchell was on sabbatical. This 3 month period gave me a greater appreciation for the Supt.'s responsibilities, activities, and the pressures he faces on a day by day basis. It is a daunting task. In addition to regional responsibilities, as President of the ERA, this places me on the Advent Christian General Conference board. This requires attending two meetings a year in Charlotte each year as well as occasional Zoom meetings. For the rest of my report I want to shift gears and share what is upon my heart and mind. These thoughts are based upon Titus 3:1-11.

When our children were growing up we had 3 basic rules in our family. Yes, we certainly had more rules than 3 but all the rest really emanated from these three. The 3 rules were these: 1. Obey God, 2. Obey your parents, 3. Treat everyone with dignity and respect. Now of course Laura and I were not subject to rule 2 but we were just as much subject to rules 1 and 3 as were our children. Rules 1 and 2 are fairly obvious as to their meaning so I will only elaborate on rule 3-treat everyone with dignity and respect. That meant you could never call a sibling or anyone else for that matter, names. You could never intimidate a sibling or anyone else because you were older, bigger, or smarter. You could have disagreements, arguments, even fights for that matter, but you could not call names or seek to intimidate the other person.

Disagreements don't fracture relationships but name calling and intimidation does. There was a 4th foundational principle that we sought to teach by words and example. Laura did this much better than I. It was not a rule but certainly it was a key component in the raising of our children and that was that we must always do that which is right, just, and honorable. We must be people of integrity. I used to say to my children something like: "I don't care what anyone else says, even 99 out of 100 people, I will try to do what is right before God even if it goes against the opinion of others."

It is not that I didn't value the opinions and teachings of others, but if it didn't align with God's word then I would choose to be faithful to what God states every time. For me the most disappointing , disheartening thing that I see in our country is not the disagreements over political stands but rather the lack of treating people with dignity and respect and doing the right, just, and honorable thing -having integrity. We see this occurring at all levels of society. We see it at the highest levels of our government. We see it in the various forms of our media. We see it

with our entertainers and athletes. We see it in the halls of the US Capital. We see it out in the streets of our cities. We see it in the university classrooms. We see it in simply how people treat each other in everyday life. But what should we expect of people who are controlled by the sinful nature?

We hope for more, but what should we actually expect. After all, what does Paul write in Titus 3:3-"for we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another." Paul states that this is the life of the unbeliever. But what is more disappointing, even disheartening, is when we see this in the church, whether it be in some nationally known ministry or in some local church, even in our own denomination. When we see that people are not treating others with dignity and respect, when people are not doing that which is right, just, and honorable-not practicing integrity, it is far worse. For we are to be different! Titus 3:1,2,4-11.

What does all of this have to do with ERA? It is this. I want you to know that your ERA Board's goal and Supt. Twitchell's goal is to always treat people with dignity and respect. We attempt to always do what is right, just, and honorable-to always act with integrity. We as your board along with your superintendent have a great love for and commitment to the people and churches of the ERA.

As God gives you remembrance, please pray for Supt. Twitchell and your board members: Ken Perkins-President of the Nova Scotia Conference, David Davis-President of the Maine Conference, Nate Hasty-President of the Maranatha Conference, Nathaniel Bickford-President of the Heritage Conference, Mike Tuttle-President of the New Life Conference, Adam Facticeau-President of New York Conference, Charlie Merrill-ERA ACGC Representative, Howie Munday-ERA Treasurer, Allen Latimore-ERA Clerk, Vice President-To Be Elected, Me-ERA President. We are not a perfect people, nor are we a perfect board. Our Superintendent is not a perfect person, but all of us serve a perfect God. Might we as the people of God in the Eastern Region, commit to treating people with dignity and respect. Might we commit to always attempting to do what is right, just, and honorable-always acting with integrity.

In His Service,

Rev. George Karl
President, Eastern Regional Association of Advent Christian Churches