

## **HISTORY REPORT**

44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – November 2012

Last year our Annual Session was held in Gillette, WY. The High Plains congregation under the leadership of Pastor Dan Morgan and his assistant, Gary Maness was the best. Liz Morgan and crew did a great job of entertaining. The new building was one of the finest in the Conference.

My life has been affected for the best by the guest speaker, Dr. H.B. London. He is retired but came to the session, feeling a mandate from God to speak words of encouragement to the Conference filled with young men in ministry. His health was threatening, but he came. His message was a needed factor in the future of our Western Conference.

Two very special laymen were honored. Marvin Schieldt, retired from 20 years plus in the development of Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch, and Irvin Haidle was translated to heaven from a lifetime of great service to the Western Conference and the Evangelical Church. These are great examples of lay leadership that had served the Lord in building His Kingdom on earth with us.

Vernon Aarness, Director of Kingdom Resources had a report that illustrated the lives of both Marvin and Irv. In the wake of great leaders like Herman Knuth and Andrew Roukema, along with lay people from the Holiness Methodist Church and others, who gave sacrificial gifts that made the advancement of new churches and the Conference possible.

Programs were proposed and adopted to help strengthen churches and pastors for better service in the work of the church. New boards and committees were created to help build pastors, churches and a good camping ministry. These are earnest efforts to challenge true believers and churches to build, serve, grow, and to fulfill the challenge of Matthew 28:18-20, along with helping to avoid burn out and to stay spiritually and physically alert in fulfilling their call to Christian service. The Superintendent reported a good number of pastors who are in training and wanting to be used in Christian service. He also mentioned groups of believers who were waiting in the wings to be recognized by our fellowship to become part of the Western Conference and its work around the world.

God is giving us this day and these opportunities as stepping stones for a great future for Him. Let's accept the challenge and move forward to a glorious future that will continue to glorify His name!

Robert Strutz  
Historian