

## WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR?

### **People are hungry and looking for help.**

Clergy as well as laity are looking for help in addressing the problems they face. There were two categories of participants. The largest group represented congregations in decline and serious trouble. The second group represented congregations interested in developing the skill to improve their ministry efforts and really grow.

### **Much of what we presented is challenging, new and unfamiliar.**

The material, especially the third training curriculum dealing with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, challenged the vast majority of those present. Although challenged, they were very open and participated fully in the practicums. Consequently, they had an “experience” of God that was consistent with scripture and became a source of great encouragement.

### **There is a sense of hope and expectation.**

Many who began the training were very discouraged and had a sense of despair about their church. These three training weekends planted the seeds of hope and expectation for their future. Although the seeds must be watered, weeded and fertilized to mature, they now have a workable game plan to begin.

### **There is also a sense of inadequacy that drives us to the Lord.**

Along with hope there is also a sense of feeling inadequate for the task. This is hard work and will require resolve. In the “natural realm” the circumstances are daunting and dire. This reality will drive them to the Lord. They know the “Spirit of the Lord” must breathe on their “dry bones”.