

## Message from the 2019 District Conference Moderator Brian Berkey



I AM VERY INTERESTED IN GETTING OUT TO AS MANY CHURCHES DURING THE COMING YEAR AS I CAN TO GET TO KNOW MORE OF ANE BEFORE NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT CONFERENCE. I CAN BE AVAILABLE FOR A PULPIT FILL OR TO JUST INTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOUR CONGREGATIONS ON A SUNDAY MORNING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A VISIT, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT [BDBERKEY@COMCAST.NET](mailto:BDBERKEY@COMCAST.NET) OR 443-553-0356.

## 2019 DISTRICT CONFERENCE THEME - "LIVING THE LEGACY"

JOB 29:2-3 – "HOW I LONG FOR THE MONTHS GONE BY, FOR THE DAYS WHEN GOD WATCHED OVER ME, WHEN HIS LAMPS SHONE UPON MY HEAD AND BY HIS LIGHT I WALKED THROUGH DARKNESS!" (NIV)

IF EVER THERE WAS A PERSON WHO COULD REALLY LAMENT ABOUT THE "GOOD OLD DAYS", IT HAS TO BE JOB. IN THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF HIS ANGUISH OVER WHAT HAS BEFALLEN HIM, JOB COMES TO THE REALIZATION OF WHAT REALLY WAS GOOD ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS. WHAT JOB REALLY MISSES IS NOT ALL OF THE "STUFF" THAT HE HAD BUT HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHURCH, AS WE BECOME ABSORBED WITH ALL OF THE ISSUES, ALL THE "STUFF" OF THE DAY, PERHAPS WE, LIKE JOB, NEED TO CONSIDER OUR BRETHREN LEGACY AND WHERE WE ARE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. TO FOLLOW UP ON THE 2018 DISTRICT CONFERENCE THEME, PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO FOCUS ON THOSE THINGS IN OUR HERITAGE THAT ARE GOOD AND POSITIVE, THE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON AND LESS ON THE "STUFF" THAT MAY CAUSE DIVISION.

AS BRETHREN WE MAY NOT STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT PERHAPS SO MUCH BUT AS WE ENTER INTO A NEW YEAR WITH MANY CHALLENGES BEFORE US, I WOULD REALLY ENCOURAGE US TO TAKE A LOOK AT JOB. THERE ARE LESSONS THAT CAN BE LEARNED THERE ABOUT DEALING WITH OUR STRUGGLES THAT APPLY IN OUR WORLD TODAY.