



Letter to the Florida District

Dear Florida District Family,

I want to begin by saying "thank you". Thank you for your prayers for our district over the past several months. Thank you, for your commitment to serving Jesus and his church. And thank you for your strong support in calling us to serve as your next District Superintendent family.

We are excited to have the opportunity to serve Jesus here on the Florida District, and we look forward to meeting you personally in the near future!

Several of you have "friended" us on [Facebook](#), followed us on [Twitter](#), or written notes to welcome us to the Florida District family. **"Thank you!"** For those of you who haven't had a chance to "check us out" on social media, here's some brief background on our family.

For the past 6 years I've served as the Lead Pastor of [Medford New Life Church of the Nazarene](#). During that time, we've seen God help us plant three churches: a Spanish language congregation in Medford, a new church in Haiti and one in Portland. God has also enabled us to open the Oregon Pacific Immigration Services Center, launch an online campus, and grow the congregation from 850 to over 1,500 people. What really excites my heart though is that the church has become a valuable part of the community and is seen as a leading source of hope and help in Southern Oregon.

Prior to serving in Medford, I served as the Lead & Founding Pastor of [BridgeWay Community Church of the Nazarene](#). Since planting BridgeWay in 2004 it has grown from an initial gathering of 17 people to over 800 today, most who were not attending any church prior to coming to BridgeWay. In its short history, BridgeWay has planted 4 churches, launched 2 campuses, and developed 8 church planters through its church planter residency ministry.

Before serving in vocational ministry, I attended Glen Oaks College, Mid-America Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary studying marketing, religion and evangelism. While a student in Kansas City, I worked in banking for Commerce Bank as a MLM (managing local markets) Specialist, helping to open new branch locations in new markets.

I'm passionate about reaching people who are disconnected from Christ, extending compassion to the marginalized, and developing leaders to fulfill their unique Kingdom calling.

While I serve passionately in ministry, my vocation is not my greatest interest. That spot belongs to my family. I have been married to my wife Steph for twenty-two years. We have three daughters: Helena who is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and is married to her Jr. High School sweetheart who she met at a District NYI event, Brenna (16) who loves cheerleading and serving in the church, and Mia (14) who love art, music and bible quizzing. In my free time, I enjoy running, reading, hiking, baseball, and all things endurance sports related.

Through our past 22 years of ministry we've seen God do exceedingly abundantly more than we could have dreamed of or imagined. And as we enter into this next chapter, we are once again anticipating God to do what only God can do!

Thank you for inviting us to serve along-side you as a part of the Florida District ministry team!

Blessings,

Dale Schaeffer

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District Superintendent

Florida District Church of the Nazarene

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow." 1 Corinthians 3:6