**Community Service (CS) Centers**

We now have 34 active community service (CS) centers in the conference, which are open to the public usually on a weekly basis. Some of these provide food, clothing or other goods to the public either free or at a minimal charge, which allows the poor to retain their dignity when they purchase what they need. Many of our churches give food or provide other forms of assistance to those in need: clothing, travel expenses, help with power or heating bills and furniture.

The CS ministries in the conference range in size from just one or two people doing what they personally can to help others, to the well-organized and staffed multi-faceted programs with quality facilities, printed materials and set hours. Some provide food to the homeless or transients, counseling, personal medications, prayer and encouragement, job training, tutoring and shoes for underprivileged children. An endless list of activities includes health fairs, food baskets at Thanksgiving or Christmas, and gifts for orphans.

Because disaster relief and prison ministries are prominent functions of ACS, Phil Rosburg is our conference director in these two vital ministries. The ACS personnel throughout the conference stand ready
to assist when called upon to help in these areas of need.

**Federations**

The community service ministries of the conference churches are grouped into six geographic areas called federations. Every spring, members who are interested in this work, along with their CS leaders, come from the churches in their respective areas to the federation meetings, for training, fellowship, inspiration, encouragement and sharing.

Each federation has its own elected officers who help organize and run the area meeting and advance this ministry in their particular area. Every church in the conference is asked to contribute 75 cents per member annually to the CS federation fund. These monies are used to operate the federation program and to provide information and resources, conference-wide and area training, and small grants to the churches for new CS projects.

Because those who work in our community service ministries are challenged by the needs of a complex and ever- changing society, ACS is changing as well — toward a more need-assessment basis for our ministry. Training and adaptation are essential. That’s why greater emphasis will be placed on training at federation meetings, the annual spring CS retreat at Nosoca, and special seminars held at the various local churches during the coming quinquennium.

**“Well Done”**

There is no greater joy than that which comes from serving Christ in the person of one in need. To those thus serving, the Lord will one day say, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink: I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me,” Matthew 25:34-36, KNJV.

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