

NMI Challenge 2023-2024 GO: Be SALT and LIGHT



Greetings Dr. Chambo, DS Rev. Skinner, delegates and friends,

Praise God!! He is worthy to be praised. Thank you, JoAnn for your years of leadership over District NMI. You have been an amazing example of serving Jesus wholeheartedly. The Rocky Mountain District appreciates how you communicate so well and how you plan and organize to keep our churches focusing on missions at home, on this district, this continent and across the ocean.

When JoAnn asked me if I would be interested in this NMI District leadership position, I did not see myself as someone who could fulfill this. It seemed overwhelming. As I prayed about it, God spoke to my heart saying “Dee Dee, think about Moses and how I gave him everything he needed and everyone he needed to complete every task I asked him to do and Dee Dee think about everything you have been through in your life up to this moment and how I have given you everything you needed and everyone you needed to complete each task. Dee Dee, trust me and know that I am God. I am your faithful God, your moving mountain God, your joy giving God, your healing God, your triune God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, your forgiving God, your creator and I love you and I will help you and be with you every step of the way in this task as well. Don’t be afraid.”

JoAnn also let me know that I would need to propose a challenge for the year and present this challenge. Right away I knew God was forming this challenge within me. Dan and I have lived in Cheyenne, WY for a little over 2 years. We do not know our neighbors very well yet. I have been praying about God to open doors and help us get to know our neighbors better. Dan and I had just sold our Ford Ranger Pick-up truck to one of our neighbors and as the neighbor was paying us for the truck, out of my mouth came these words, “we’ll have to have you over for a BBQ sometime soon”. Our neighbors agreed and have talked to us more since then. The door is open wide for more conversations and fellowship. Another day a few weeks ago, Dan was outside when a different neighbor was out at that same time and they stood at the fence talking for 45 minutes.

All that to say – my challenge for all of us is to **GO be salt and light** that Jesus asks us to be in Matthew chapter 5 versus 13-16 to someone right next door-or even in the same house. So many of us live such busy lives that I think we overlook or forget to be the salt and light of Jesus to those right around us. I know I get into going through the motions of life in my busyness and do not intentionally take the time to see people and spend time getting to know people outside the church family.

I am praying that God opens our eyes to see our neighbors and anyone God lays on our hearts. May God give each one of us opportunities to be His salt and light --and I know He will. It is what He has called us to do. I believe God is already working in each heart here and beginning to put people’s faces and names on our hearts of who He needs us to reach out to and pray for and God is preparing hearts who are waiting for us to be the salt and light so they can meet Jesus as their personal Savior. May we be faithful in our relationship with Jesus and may we be faithful in what He has called us to be: Matthew 5:13-16, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

To God be the Glory, Forever Grateful, Dee Dee Crider