

*“Building International Bridges of Witness and Fellowship”*

# THE FORESEE

*Conservative Congregational Christian Conference*

March/April 2004 Volume 37, No. 2

## *Around The Conference*

### *Fighting Pornography*

by Rev. Scott Cleveland, Area Representative, State of Maine, Second Congregational Church, Brewer, ME  
*“They plot injustice and say, ‘We have devised a perfect plan!’ Surely the mind and heart of man are cunning.” Psalm 64:6*

Second Congregational Church of Brewer, Maine, an historic church (roughly 80 members) established in 1843, is fighting an aggressive evil: a pornographic video store recently opened only 75’ away from the church. Seeking permits under the name “Northshore Distributing”, the owners claimed the business was an ordinary video and video equipment store. When neighbors discovered the deception and objected to the porn shop’s location, the City of Brewer attempted to enforce its ordinances on licensing and location of “adult entertainment” businesses. Northshore Distributing and the franchise, Pandora’s Boxxx, immediately filed a lawsuit against the city, which, surprisingly, allowed the store to open. The porn shop (as is our church) is located in the midst of a

residential neighborhood. Children wait for school buses across the street and ride their bikes to a nearby playground. Despite public outcry, the City Council agreed to a settlement allowing the porn shop to stay in this location, exempt from licensing. The church and community are still fighting this evil through prayer, public protest, a lawsuit, and new state legislation. A website, [www.cccbrewer.org](http://www.cccbrewer.org), has more information on this battle. Our church also has a website at [www.brewer4cchurch.org](http://www.brewer4cchurch.org).

Our prayer requests in this fight are many: 1. For the safety of the young people of this community. Their natural curiosity about pornography makes them extremely vulnerable. Sometimes young teens and even pre-teens have set up “counter-protests” with signs reading “Honk 4 porn”—and have received disturbing attention from passing porn shop patrons. 2. For those addicted to pornography. 3. For repentance of the store owners and employees. 4. For patience and strength of our church and community—many have become discouraged. Yet we trust God will bring great good out of this battle.



*Second Congregational Church, Brewer, ME*



*Public Protest of Adult Video Store*

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## From the Conference Minister



I am longing for Biblical Christian Unity.

Before His arrest, torture, and crucifixion Jesus fervently prayed. In John 17 we have a glimpse of what Jesus prayed for that night. Much of his prayer focused on His fervent longing for the church. Praying for His disciples and those who would yet come to believe in Him, and fully realizing that the devil would attack the church in order to divide and conquer us, Jesus fervently prayed. He prayed that we would be sanctified by the truth of God's Word (v.17-19), that we would be brought to complete unity in Him (v.20-23), and that together we would let the world know of Jesus and His love so they might know Him fully and be with Him forever (v.23-24).

Since Jesus prayed in this way, I am convinced that prayers for Biblical Christian Unity should be front and center in the life of the church. Over the years I have witnessed precisely what Jesus foresaw; attacks against Biblical Christian Unity in the church. The church is tempted to reject or ignore the truth of Scripture, to shift the primary focus in the church away from the person and Lordship of Jesus Christ, or to become so focused on each other and conflicts among us that we become divided and ineffective in our evangelistic purpose.

These have always been the strategies of the enemy against the church, and continue to be so today, even in our Conference. I am so glad that the CCCC has determined to stand together on the infallible authority of Holy Scripture. It

thrills my soul to be part of a Christ-centered denomination that acknowledges Jesus as Savior and Lord of all. And how wonderful to know that the CCCC has determined that we will not allow our differences to separate us from each other or from Christian love!

Yet we know what Jesus showed us; that the battle isn't over. In our homes, and local churches, and in our Conference we must follow Jesus' example. Let us be praying for Biblical Christian Unity. And as we pray, (Eph.4:3) "*Let us make every effort...*"

After prayerfully writing this article, I read Carlton Walker's article for this edition of the FORESEE. By the prompting of the Holy Spirit the Lord has led both of us to address this subject. Clearly the Lord is reminding us that Biblical Christian Unity is His heartbeat! The Lord is speaking to us! Are we listening?



## Women's Ministries Committee News

*"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."* Philippians 1:21

It could not have been any more obvious to those of us who knew her that for her, *to live was Christ*. Apart from her family, Christ was her life. We saw Him in the joy reflected in all she did, both with her biological family and her Conference family. Many of us shared that joy with her this past summer in Virginia as we laughed with her, prayed with her and cried with her. But God, in his grace, saw fit to take her home to be with Him – her cancer finally beaten. What has been our loss has been both Heaven's and her gain. Noreen White is finally healed and whole and home and because of that we rejoice knowing that we will one day see her again. My prayer is that the joy she knew even in the face of death would be as evident in us. The encouragement and blessing she brought to her Conference family will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers go out to her husband Bruce and their four children.

## THE FORESEE

A bi-monthly publication of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

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Deadline for the May/June 2004 issue is March 10, 2004.

**Seasons of the Heart**, our newly released devotional, is already making an impact! A woman in Minnesota purchased a couple of copies to give as Christmas gifts. One of the recipients was a friend of hers who had recently lost a sister to cancer and the book came at just the right time. *How like the Lord!* She said that God used it to comfort her when she most needed it and she could not put the book down! Praise God! Have you purchased your copy yet? How about purchasing several copies to mail to the missionaries supported by your church? If you would like a copy (or several) of **Seasons of the Heart**, it can be purchased for ten dollars from **Mrs. Sandy Stewart, P.O. Box 249, Avon, MN 56310**.

We are in need of your prayer and financial support. As we have already shared with you, the cost for publishing the devotional was higher than we had anticipated. As a result, we will not be able to do much to help teens with their short-term missions

(continued on page 3)

## Carlton's Comments



A new year provides some people with the opportunity to make resolutions which they quickly break. Personally, I would much rather set a spiritual goal for the coming twelve months and ask God for help in accomplishing it. For 2004 I would like to suggest that every CCCC parishioner join me in pursuing one spiritual goal – praying for the unity of our churches.

In His high priestly prayer just before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed for the unity of those “who will believe in me through their (the disciples’) message” (John 17:11). In case you haven’t thought about it, Jesus is praying for you and me! The one characteristic that He wants His church to exhibit is unity, the unity that the Father and He, the Son, possess.

To what does the word “unity” refer? It refers to a unity of purpose, direction and mission. So often, churches do not exhibit that kind of purpose and direction because we Christians are more interested in pushing our own agendas rather than praying to discern God’s purpose and direction for us. When “our” agenda is rejected by others we are bent out of shape and feel rejected. Such conflict is avoided when we genuinely seek God’s purpose instead of championing our own.

How do we pray for unity? First we need to pray for every person who is a part of the congregation of which we are a part. Pray that each person will grow in his or her walk with the Lord and that each one will desire to know and follow God’s purpose and direction in the congregation. I believe we need to pray for others by name, not in some general way.

Secondly, we need to be praying daily for the pastor and the spiritual leadership of the congregation. Pray for the same things as for others in the congregation, and add that each person might seek God’s guidance as he or she exercises leadership.

Why should we pray for this kind of unity in our congregation? Obviously, we should pray this way because Jesus did so, showing us that unity is His desire for the Church. Secondly, I can say from practical experience that churches who pray for their pastors and pray for one another in this way do not have the turmoil that so many churches experience today. Thirdly, such prayers can bring us to the end of 2004 saying, “Isn’t it amazing how much I and the others in my congregation have spiritually grown over the last twelve months?” Fourthly, others may be able to say of our congregation, “Why does that CCCC church accomplish so much for the Lord and have so little conflict in the process?” And all the glory will belong to Jesus! Widespread prayer for unity will be the catalyst for many positive changes.

Rev. Carlton Walker  
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E-mail: [cwalker@cccusa.org](mailto:cwalker@cccusa.org)

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(Women’s Ministries Committee cont.)

trips or be able to send any extra to India to help purchase books for the children and seminary students through “Friends of Hope.” We are so grateful to so many of you who have faithfully given through the years to our missions projects. However, any further donation you may wish to make can be sent to **Mrs. Sandy Stewart**. We would also welcome your comments about the devotional book. A special “thank you” to those of you who have sent chewable vitamins for the children in Haiti. They will be going down with us at the end of February.

We are eagerly looking forward to a wonderful Conference in South Dakota as we enjoy the ministry of Anne Ortlund. Whether or not you are able to join us, we invite you to pray for us as we come together as a Conference family and enjoy a little bit of Heaven here on Earth.

Thank you, Liz Eklund

## Bryan's Bytes

by Bryan Burrell

### CCCC Website Update

The month of December has seen some major upgrades in a number of our online website pages. The CCCC office has worked very hard to update email and church directory data. Additionally, the CCCC office has created hundreds of new membership accounts that make the use of that feature on our website more useful than ever before.

It is our desire to only have correct information on churches available on our website. Therefore, all of the email and website information has been removed from most churches in the directory. Please check your directory listing and send any email or website information to [changes@cccusa.org](mailto:changes@cccusa.org). We will make the updates in a timely fashion.

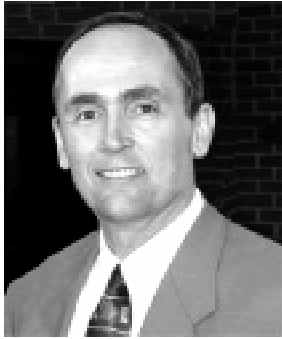
Please check the website to verify that your email and church directory information is the most current available. Email and website addresses can change frequently. Members can change their contact and email information as often as those changes occur. Please remember to send your changes to [changes@cccusa.org](mailto:changes@cccusa.org).

It is our desire to expand the membership portion of our website. Only members of the Conference that have been approved can view this part of the website. None of the information is available to other general visitors to our site. As we expand the members on the site, we can begin to offer greater content through this part of the site.

Our Conference has a wealth of individuals and churches with great ideas for expanding our web presence. Please keep your ideas and your suggestions coming. We appreciate all of them.

# 56th Annual Family Conference Speakers

July 19-22, 2004  
Sioux Falls, SD



**Rev. Stephen Gammon**

*Speaker*

*Evening Worship Hour on Monday (July 19th)*

Steve is the new Conference Minister. Previously he was the Senior Pastor of Trinity Evangelical Church of Peterborough, NH. He holds degrees from Barrington College, Bethel Theological Seminary, and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Helen, have three children, Carl, Amy, and Jonathan.



**Ray Ortlund**

*Speaker (with Anne)*

*Evening Bible Hour on Tuesday & Wednesday (July 20 & 21)*



**Anne Ortlund**

*Speaker (with Ray)*

*Evening Bible Hour on Tuesday & Wednesday (July 20 & 21)*

*Speaker at Ladies Luncheon on Tuesday (July 20)*

Born in Des Moines, Iowa to Swedish Americans, Ray has pastored churches in Pennsylvania, New York, and California (for twenty years minister of the Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena). For seventeen years Ray was the speaker of the "Haven of Rest" radio broadcast. Ray is a past President of the CCCC and regularly ministers with his wife Anne across the United States and on every continent in the world.

Daughter of a U.S. Army General, Anne's ministry involves speaking at women's retreats and side-by-side with her husband Ray. Anne was the organist for Dr. Charles E. Fuller's international radio broadcasts for fifteen years. Her hymn "Macedonia" was chosen to be the theme hymn of Dr. Billy Graham's World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin.



**Ray Ortlund, Jr.**

*Speaker*

*Morning Bible Hour on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday (July 20, 21, & 22)*

Ray, Jr. was a professor of Old Testament and Semitic languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago. Most Recently he has been the minister of the First Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Augusta, Georgia.

Register as soon as possible for the Annual Family Conference – you don't want to miss these dynamic speakers and the wonderful fellowship you'll experience at the Conference.

# The Adventure of the Harvest

by Rev. Steven Oeffling, St. Paul's Congregational Church, Greeley, CO

*"Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."* Jesus in John 4:35

We have all read these familiar words of Jesus and agree that there is a spiritual harvest that is waiting to be reached with the

***"...there is a spiritual harvest that is waiting to be reached with the Gospel."***

Gospel. As a church, we had to face a rather challenging fact. Large numbers of people near us were not being reached. The proportion of the unchurched was staggering to us. Just as sobering, we understood we were running our spiritual combines through already harvested fields, reaching "church-positive" people while failing to connect with those not prone to visit us.

One step we took was the launching of "Waypoints." Meeting in a corporate center, casual and approachable in style, interactive, and speaking in language relevant to the culture, this Tuesday evening church that doesn't look like a church is already seeing a harvest. Here are a few comments from unchurched friends who have joined us.

"Last week was one of the most spiritually profound times of my life."

"I have learned so much. I thought I knew a lot about God until I came here."

"I have never experienced a place where I have felt so welcomed and accepted."

"The people here are so loving and welcoming. The teaching is not only deep, but relevant to my life."

"Well, I found it. I finally found a church that I can call home."

At Waypoints we are just beginning. It is a lot of work. There are no guarantees. Yet we have been experiencing a lot of joy in the adventure of the harvest.

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## Book Corner

*In the Hands of Providence, Joshua L. Chamberlin & The American Civil War*  
by Alice Rains Trulock, The University of North Carolina Press, 1992

At the Combined Arms & Services Staff School at Fort Leavenworth I was assigned to read *The Killer Angels* by Michael Sharra. This Pulitzer-winning novelization of the battle of Gettysburg introduced me to Joshua Lawrence Chamberlin of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine. In all my military reading since I've not encountered a more admirable soldier.

To my delight, at our CCCC Annual Family Conference in Virginia I was made aware of a 1992 biography of Chamberlin by Alice Rains Trulock, *In the Hands of Providence*.

This is the definitive work, carefully researched and thoroughly devoted to showing the integrity, courage, and faith of a seminary-trained college professor who became an extraordinary military leader.

The pivotal point in Chamberlin's career, and for which he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, came in leading a heroic charge down Little Round Top at Gettysburg. His troop's ammunition was exhausted, and his line could not withstand another enemy assault. So in an audacious act of creativity and bravery Chamberlin ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge downhill the Confederate line. The terrified rebel troops who did not flee, surrendered. The desperate gambit was successful and turned the tide of the battle, some say the war.

Throughout his life, Chamberlin was filled with an awareness of the providential care of God. This conviction took away his fear. It was not a belief in impersonal fatalism but trust in a sovereign Lord Who brings about His plan. Life is not accidental; our times are securely in His hands. Chamberlin wrote, "There is no promise of life in peace and no decree of death in war. And I am so confident of the sincerity of my motives that I can trust my own life and the welfare of my family in the hands of Providence. I believe that God is over all things and that He will put me where He wants me and where I ought to be."

The question arises from time to time, "Can a Christian serve in the military and how does one serve in a Christian manner?" Chamberlin believed his cause was just. He also regarded war as "a test of character; it makes bad men worse and good men better." Chamberlin's remarkable life shows how God ordains individuals to military service and that bravery and concern for one's comrades in arms originates from an abiding faith in a personal sovereign God.

Reviewed by Chaplain (LTC) Robert G. Leroe, US Army Retired and Pastor of Cliftondale Congregational Church, Saugus, MA.

This book is available through Foresee Publications at a cost of \$19.95 for paperback, hard cover is \$39.95.

## CCCC People to Pray For

Chaplain (MAJ) Alan Hardy, Pastor of Zion Congregational Church in Treynor, Iowa, has been called from his National Guard unit in Council Bluff to join the 185 Combat Support Battalion to go to Iraq for 18 months. He has been pulled from his usual National Guard unit to deploy with the Combat Support unit because of his prior Active Duty time with the Active Army. Pray for Alan and his wife, Linda and children, and for the church. They are looking for a suitable interim at the church.

CCCC Navy Chaplain, LCDR Kenneth Winters retired from the Navy after 20 years of faithful service on behalf of the CCCC

to our Navy and Nation, in a beautiful retirement ceremony held at Shepherd of the Sea Chapel in Groton, Connecticut. CCCC Conference Minister, Stephen Gammon, was the speaker at this occasion. Pray for Ken and Connie as they move on to further ministry.

Pray for Milt and Clarice Reimer (local arrangements coordinators), Don Ehler (program coordinator), and all the members of the local arrangements team as they make plans and preparations for our Annual Family Conference to be held in Sioux Falls, SD July 19-22.

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### Every Day With Jesus

by Rev. Gerald M. Sanders,  
Parkman Congregational Church, Parkman, OH

*“Then Jesus said unto them, follow me and I will make you become fishers of men. They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”* Mark 1:17-18

These verses tell us of the calling of the first disciples. Little did they realize what lay before them. There would be sufferings and troubles that each would face. When we examine the New Testament we find that these men’s lives and writings are not marked by sorrow and complaint but are filled with joy and thanksgiving. What is the quality in their life that gave them such peace and assurance?

They had walked with Jesus and their days were filled with the remembrance of Him and their witness to His victory over even the grave. Their close fellowship with Him was continued in their fellowship with the Holy Spirit. They spent every day of their life in the transforming knowledge of who Jesus is and that He was, and would always be, with them.

This same joy and peace is present today for all who will have faith in Jesus and will heed His call to follow Him. As we follow Him our knowledge and awareness of His presence in the Holy Spirit grows. We begin to understand that His abiding presence is real and then we are assured in all circumstances of His power to keep us until life eternal. Those who hear the call to follow and become His disciple and refuse never know the joy and power of His presence. All who, by faith, follow Him gain a growing and everlasting joy. They begin to realize the meaning of that old hymn that tells us “Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before!”

We who have been called and follow must bear witness to the joy of following Jesus. We must call to others to know Christ that they might know the joy of each day growing in the wonderful fellowship with Him.

May the joy and peace of Christ the Savior grow in your life each day!

### 40 Days of Purpose Campaign

by Rev. Phil Corr, Pastor in Residence,  
St. Paul’s Congregational Church, Greeley, CO

On November 23, 2003 St. Paul’s Congregational Church celebrated the completion of a “40 Days of Purpose Campaign.” Joining more than 2 million people connected in some way with 5,000 churches in nine countries, the people of St. Paul’s saw community members in Greeley and beyond come to a saving knowledge of Christ, as well as others inside and outside of the church experience a deepening relationship with the Lord.

God blessed Pastor Steve Oeffling’s vision to have at least 400 people participating in 40 small groups. At least 42 small groups met, mostly in homes, but some at the church and one at an IHOP. Two small churches had approximately 48 people involved in the study. 428 books were distributed.

Bathed in prayer and centered on Rick Warren’s book “The Purpose Driven Life,” lessons learned and discussed in the small groups were reinforced by scripture memorization, Sunday messages, and children’s Sunday school. The participants learned “It’s not about you,” but about God and His glorious purposes: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry/service, and missions/evangelism.

During the “40 Days of Purpose Campaign” a ministry fair was held where people learned how to become involved in God’s global plan for humanity – at home and in far away places. One couple that participated in the study planned to continue the campaign in their own church, and a member of St. Paul’s took the 40 Days materials in Spanish to three towns in Peru.

As you can see, the impact this “40 Days of Purpose Campaign” had on St. Paul’s and the surrounding area was tremendous. 40 Days Campaigns will be held three times a year at St. Paul’s. If you are interested in starting one at your church or would like more information on the campaign, please call St. Paul’s at 970-353-5500 or e-mail Rev. Phil Corr at [dphilcorr@yahoo.com](mailto:dphilcorr@yahoo.com).

## Promotions To Glory

Rev. Chester M. Reed died August 23, 2003 in North Webster, IN. He was born April 19, 1906. He joined the CCCC in 1953.

## God's Promise

Although things are not perfect	On earth can yield the power
Because of trial and pain	Praise can do alone
Continue in thanksgiving	Quit looking at the future
Do not begin to blame	Redeem the time at hand
Even when the times are hard	Start every day with worship
Fierce winds are bound to blow	To "thank" is a command
God is forever able	Until we see Him coming
Hold on to what you know	Victorious in the sky
Imagine life without His love	We'll run the race with gratitude
Joy would cease to be	Xalting God most high
Keep thanking Him for all the things	Yes, there'll be good times and yes
Love imparts to thee	some will be bad, but...
Move out of "Camp Complaining"	Zion waits in glory...where none
No weapon that is known	are ever sad!

## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes:

Hebron CT	First Congregational Church* called Charles Romanello*
Bolton MA	Trinity Church Congregational (Ind) called David Smith
Greenville OH	Coletown Congregational Christian Church (MCCF) called Eric Knight
Rural Valley PA	St Paul Congregational Church* called Tim Lewis

### Pastoral Openings:

Ashford CT	Westford Congregational Church*
Stillman Valley IL	Congregational Christian Church (Ind)
Newburg IA	Newburg-Chester Congregational Church*
Pownal ME	First Parish Congregational Church
Fitchburg MA	Elm Street Congregational (UCC)
Kingston MA	Mayflower Congregational Church*
Lynn MA	Bethany Congregational Church (UCC)
Mansfield MA	First Christian Church*
Newton Center MA	Greek Evangelical Church* (for English speaking cong)
Grandville MI	Grandville-Jenison Congregational Church*
Peterborough NH	Trinity Evangelical Church*
Lake View NY	Lake View Congregational Church*
Kulm ND	First Congregational*
New Rockford ND	First Congregational Church*
Lodi OH	First Congregational Church*
Zelienople PA	St. Peter's Reformed Church*
Chesapeake VA	Rosemont Christian Church (Ind)

\* = Conference member  
+ = In process

## Assistant Pastoral Opening

Orchard View Congregational Church in Muskegon, Michigan is seeking an associate pastor who will focus on Christian Education and Family Ministries. Excellent organizational skills, and the ability to work well with wide variety of age groups are required. Responsible for oversight of Christian Education and training of lay ministry leaders. Will also share duties of pastoral care, counseling, and church structure. Contact Daniel Rudd, email [daniel@orchardviewchurch.org](mailto:daniel@orchardviewchurch.org), phone 231-773-5300.

## Health Tips

### Booster Seats

Remember that all children who have outgrown child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" tall. The booster can only be used with both the lap and shoulder belt across the child. Boosters are safety devices for children over 40 pounds who have outgrown a forward-facing child seat and cannot comfortably sit with their back against the seat back cushion and feet on the floor.

Source: [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

### West Nile Virus

Prevent West Nile Virus in your yard by removing all standing water from: flower pots, pet bowls, clogged rain gutters, swimming pool covers, discarded tires and other items that may collect water and allow mosquitoes to lay eggs. Protect yourself by applying mosquito repellent with DEET to exposed skin, wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, staying indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening when mosquitoes are most active and repairing window and door screens.

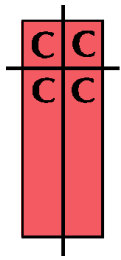
Source: OCHD and CDC

### Dental Care

For your teeth and gums to stay in good health you should brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and clean between teeth daily with floss to remove decay-causing bacteria. Eating a balanced diet, visiting your dentist regularly for oral exams, and getting a new toothbrush every three or four months are also important for healthy teeth and gums.

Source: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

by Betty Mitchell, RN, Parish Nurse  
Emmanuel Bethel Church  
Royal Oak, MI



Conservative  
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Conference

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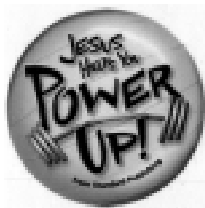
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**THE FORESEE**

March/April 2004 Volume 37, No. 2

***It's Time to Get Excited About Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2004***

*"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6*



Standard Publishing  
**Jesus Helps You Power Up!**  
Starter Kit \$54.99



Group Publishing  
**Lava Lava Island**  
**Where Jesus' Love Flows**  
Starter Kit \$69.99



Child Evangelism Fellowship  
**Mission Possible**  
Complete Kit \$149.99



Concordia Publishing  
**Construction Inc.**  
**In the Name of Christ**  
Starter Kit \$54.99



Gospel Light  
**Song Games 2004**  
Starter Kit \$49.99



David C. Cook  
**God's All Star Champions**  
Complete Prog/Repro \$79.99

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**Think about it - - -**

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