

“Building International Bridges of Witness and Fellowship”

# THE FORESEE

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

November/December 2004 Volume 37, No. 6

## Around The Conference

### Making Disciples in the Pacific Northwest

Submitted by Rev. George Allen, Pacific Northwest Area Representative  
Written by Mrs. Doris Fleming, United Church of Kellogg, Idaho

Ever wonder what it would be like to be a “disciple-making” church? Well, that is exactly what the United Church of Kellogg, Idaho is finding out.

In the fall of 2002 the church made a collective decision to obey Christ’s command to “...go and make disciples.” (Matt. 28:19-20). And now, just two years later, they are seeing disciples being made in their own community and are deploying disciples into mission outreaches in India and Ireland.

Through a series of workshops put on by T-Net, a church-coaching organization, they have set in place tools such as the ALPHA Course and Cleansing Stream to help them reach their goal of becoming a disciple-making church.

As the church listens for the directing voice of God and moves forward in the power of the Spirit, lives are being transformed for Christ’s sake. It’s exciting to see a senior citizen, Homer Hoffman, discover Christ and choose to follow Him, and an eighteen-year-old, Russell Vannoy, choose to trust God and

go to India as an ambassador of Christ.

Though still in process with much to learn and accomplish, the United Church of Kellogg has developed a definition of a disciple and is working to develop a strategy to continue growing as a “disciple-making” church. If you would like information about becoming a “disciple-making” church, please contact Doris Fleming at 208-786-8801 or e-mail her at tuck@usamedia.tv.



ALPHA group

### Serving the Lord Through Music and Drama

by Rev. James Beesley, Southern New England Area Representative

It encourages me to see the wide variety of ways CCCC men and women serve the Lord. One of our Southern New England member ministers, Jonathan Colegrove, and his wife Jama are involved in Musicon Ministries, a discipleship ministry to middle and high school students and their families.

Musicon Ministries began in the summer of 1980 and uses a format of weekend training (rehearsal) and “on the road” performing to teach the gospel to teens across the state of Connecticut and beyond. Musicon (high school) and Joy Inc. (middle school) travel during the summer and several weekends each

year throughout New England bringing original musical dramas of the highest quality that apply scripture to the key issues of life.

Colegrove notes, “The goal of our programs is to bring young people to know Jesus Christ as Savior, help them become grounded in the basics of Christian life, and give them a solid understanding that every Christian can minister the Gospel message to a needy world.”

If you are interested in finding out more about Musicon Ministries visit [www.musiconministries.org](http://www.musiconministries.org).

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## From the Conference Minister



Many years ago when I was in college I had a specific need for \$300. I had no idea where it would come from, but I asked the Lord to provide. Soon after I received a letter from a family I had known when I was a little boy. I had not seen this family in several years, but enclosed in their letter was a check in the amount of \$300.00. They said that as they prayed for me the Lord had laid it upon their hearts to send this money to me. I remember tears of joy as I read their letter, amazed at God's love and at the love of this couple – and I gave God the praise for His abundant and faithful provision. The thing that struck me then about this provision from the Lord was that HE provided, and He chose to do it through His people! God is still providing in this way! I'm asking Him to do it again to meet the needs of our Conference.

Each year at the CCCC Annual Meeting, our delegates adopt an annual budget to cover the expenses of our CCCC ministry for the coming year. We ask God to provide and He does so, primarily from donations by our member churches, member ministers, and individual Lay members who love our Lord and our Conference.

It was reported at our Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls that our General Fund has experienced a substantial shortfall this year. We began this year with a lower balance because of some unbudgeted expenses in 2003, and our 2004 receipts have not been sufficient to meet our increased budget.

How can you help? First you can do

what I did many years ago when I needed \$300. You can pray in faith, asking and trusting the Lord to abundantly provide for our needs. In addition, you can ask the Lord to show you what He would have you to do. If you are part of a CCCC member church, you can personally encourage your congregation to send a gift before the end of this year and to prayerfully consider increasing your budget for giving to the Conference next year. If you are a CCCC member minister, when you fill out and submit your annual questionnaire this fall you can contribute as generously as the Lord enables you. If you are a Lay member who loves this Conference and wants to support our ministry, you can write a letter to the CCCC office indicating that you would like to be a "Conference Benefactor" and enclosing a generous gift.

As all of us pray in faith and do our part, every need will be met and the Lord will be glorified! May the Lord be your joy and provision and may He remain our first love!



## Women's Ministries Committee News

We have been working toward providing books for seminary students and children in India through "Friends of Hope" ministry. After spending time in Haiti on a missions trip, my eyes and heart were opened to what we have as a nation compared to what children in Haiti (and India) have. Of the five schools I visited in Haiti, only one had access to any books and they had been printed in 1968! Our "throw-away" society would have disposed of those books about thirty-four years ago and replaced them with new ones! There is much we can all do to help supply books where they are so badly needed.

For those of you who attended the Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls and received a Chinese take-out box, remember that the purpose of the box is two-fold. It is to be a prayer reminder for our two missions projects – providing

## THE FORESEE

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

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Deadline for the January/February 2005 issue is November 10, 2004.

books for India and sending teens on short-term missions trips. If you did not receive a box, be creative! Label a small dish or glass and use that for change. After two weeks, count your change and send a check, made out to the CCCC Women's Ministries Committee, to Mrs. Sandy Stewart, P.O. Box 249, Avon, MN 56310.

Order copies of the devotional **Seasons of the Heart** for a great Christmas gift or encourager of the heart for ten dollars per copy (which includes shipping) from Sandy Stewart.

Our primary purpose is to glorify God in serving you. Let us hear how we can better minister to you as you faithfully serve the Lord. Many of you have encouraged us and we have been blessed. Thank you for the ways you have served us, shared with us, prayed for us, and faithfully given. "*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you...*" (Col. 1:3)

Thank you, Liz Eklund

## Carlton's Comments



It is difficult to preach a sermon! Not because it takes a good deal of preparation. Not because the sermon must be delivered before a congregation which may be listening to what you say with a critical ear. The difficulty in preaching comes in realizing that you, the preacher, stand under the same judgment of the Word of God as those to whom you may be speaking. God holds the preacher responsible not only to speak His Word but also to listen and respond to it as well.

In September I had the wonderful opportunity of preaching at a worship service of the Bronx Household of Faith, a Conference member church for thirty-three years. The congregation is now meeting in P.S. 10, thanks to a miracle that God performed through the court system. Pastor Bob Hall asked me to preach on the parable of the minas in Luke 19:11-27, a passage from which I had not taught for a number of years. The process of preparing and preaching that message again has convinced me that it is a passage that every Christian needs to consider at least once a year. That includes every church and every individual member of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

Jesus uses the story of a nobleman who gives each of his ten servants the same amount of money to put to use while he is gone. The purpose of this part of the story is to teach that every believer has been given time, abilities, money, resources and a new life to put to use for the Lord's work and His glory until Jesus returns as King of kings. The results of what three of the ten servants

accomplished are then examined by the nobleman. Two of the three do a good job of putting to work what each was given. The master was pleased with what they had done and gave each more to use. The third wrapped his money in a cloth and set it aside in direct disobedience to his master's instructions. What he thought was his was taken away and given to the one who had done the best, giving the third servant no more opportunity to obey and glorify his master.

If we are using our Christ-given resources to full advantage why are Conference missionaries having a growing problem finding adequate support? Why is the Conference struggling to keep its financial head above water while at the same time seeing so many exciting things that could be done if only the resources were available? Why are Sunday school superintendents begging someone, anyone, to decide to teach during the coming year? In the light of this parable's message that every Christian will be judged regarding his or her use of the blessing Christ has given, how will I answer Christ, how will you answer Christ, when He asks us: "What have you done with what you have been given?" That was a tough sermon to preach!

Rev. Carlton Walker  
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## Book Review

*Girl Meets God*  
by Lauren F. Winner

Reviewed by Rev. Dr. Robert Leroy,  
Cliftdale Congregational Church,  
Saugus, MA

*Girl Meets God* is difficult to categorize because it is several books in one. It is a personal memoir, a devotional book, and a study of the sad tension between Judaism and Christianity. This commentary on Scripture is a reflection on sacrament and liturgy and looks at the often slow process of conversion.

## Bryan's Bytes

by Bryan Burrell

### Something for Nothing Again?

It may be hard to believe, but we are once again featuring a new FREE offering to members of our Conference in this column. We all recently received news from the Conference office that the ministry of Foresee Publications will change as of this Fall. The CCCC website recently added a new online Christian bookstore. Your opportunity to access this online resource appears on every page of the CCCC website.

The direct web address for the new CCCC online bookstore is <http://www.cccc.spreadtheword.com>. This new service is only one of the ways to purchase items for personal or church use. However, it is the only way that our Conference directly benefits from the sale. It is great to offer something for nothing again in this column. It's even better to bless the Conference in the process. Remember, each time you use this online source, a portion of the sale goes directly to the CCCC. Check out this new service online today and bless our Conference with your purchases.

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### Significant Changes For Foresee Publications

Foresee Publications has significantly downsized. Effective October 31 the only resources available directly through our office will be uniquely CCCC items and various resources on Congregationalism and local church leadership. Churches who have historically ordered Sunday School and VBS Curriculum from Foresee Publications may now order their curriculum directly from vendors. A listing of such vendors was recently mailed to our churches from Foresee Publications. Gayle Brimmer, Foresee Publications manager, remains available to answer questions and provide requested assistance.

# CCCC Missionaries

## Micronesian Minute

by Rev. A. Barry Jones, Conference Outreach Director; President, "Morning Star Messengers"

On our refrigerator door we have a fridge magnet that reads, "To teach is to touch a life forever." How true! Most of us can reflect upon the profound influence one or more teachers have had in our lives. Some even influenced us to make an eternal difference.

God has uniquely called the CCCC to one specific mission field – Micronesia, and on one of these islands we have assisted the Mizpah Christian High School with teachers. However, right now we do not have any teaching staff from the US. We urgently need ASAP teachers in English, Math, Science and Computers. You can be a recent college graduate willing to give one or two year's service, or perhaps a retired couple who would give a year or so to "touching lives forever."

Chuuk State is built around a beautiful lagoon. The hillsides of the island are covered in lush tropical rain forests. But the real beauty is in the people and especially the teenagers of Mizpah Christian High School.

Will you consider this wonderful opportunity or perhaps you

know of someone who would respond right now and perhaps echo the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Here am I Lord send me."



**Beautiful  
Truk  
Lagoon**

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## Missionaries with a Unique Calling

by Rev. Clair Longuevan, Chairman, Missions Committee

Scot and Sheryl Myhr's calling into missions has evolved over many years. Scot and Sheryl enhanced their missions interest by participating in short-term missions before they were married in 1993. They continued to seek God's will together in missions as they worked in their professions as an engineer and dietitian. They were involved for several years in a mission-training program through their church and they completed one year of seminary. Through a prayer group for an unreached people group and a vision trip, God drew them to East Asia. In 2000 they went as Associates (short-term) with OMF International (formerly China Inland Mission). After returning to the US in the summer of 2001 and reflecting on their time in Asia they realized their love for the people had grown. Today they live in a community near Los Angeles, CA where they attend an ethnic church. During the last few years they have become convinced that God is calling them to career work with East Asians.

Now appointed as OMF Members (career missionaries) and ratified as CCCC

Commissioned Christian Workers, they plan to return to East Asia in November to continue language and culture study for about three years. Their plan is to then return to the US to minister to East Asian scholars and students. There are currently 74,000 Asian students and scholars studying in the US. This number has risen by 12,000 each of the last three years.

They have been encouraged to see another CCCC missionary and the Upper Midwest Fellowship reaching out to Somalis in the Twin Cities. People from many nations are coming to the US and are open to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The world is truly at our doorstep!

If you are interested in learning more about Scot and Sheryl Myhr or their ministry, please contact them at OMF International, 10 W. Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120; Phone: 800-422-5330; Fax: 303-730-4165; E-mail: [smyhr@akamail.com](mailto:smyhr@akamail.com).



*Scot, Sheryl & Corrie Myhr  
Photography by Emmerich Photography*

## 2005 Short-Term Missions Trips

The following trips are tentatively set for 2005. Each of the trips requires an application, a confidential pastoral reference, a valid passport, and a \$100 one-time, non-refundable deposit. You do not have to be a member of a CCCC Church to participate. All trips are led by Clair Longuevan except the Belize trip, which will be led by Scott Koop.

If you would like more information about these missions trips, would like to request an application packet, or would like to know how you can support these trips financially, please contact Rev. Clair Longuevan at 2208 Dakota Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81503; E-mail [CLonguevan@compuserve.com](mailto:CLonguevan@compuserve.com); Phone 970-243-5949.

### Southwest Europe

January 10-22, 2005

Vision Trip – 5-6 people

Approximate cost: \$1800 per person

### Belgium

**Team #1** – March 11-27, 2005 at Ottignies

Ministry Team – 8 people

Approximate cost: \$1500 per person

**Team #2** – April 13-27, 2005 at Binche-Houdeng

Ministry Team – 9 people

Approximate cost: \$1500 per person

### Spain

July 1-15, 2005 at Onda

Ministry Team – 10-15 people

Approximate cost: \$1650 per person

### Belize

August 6-18, 2005

Youth Ministry and Work Team – 15-20 people

Approximate cost: \$1200 per person

### Germany, Black Forest

September 9-24, 2005

Ministry Team – 7-8 people

Approximate cost: \$1650 per person

### Albania

October 7-21, 2005

Work Team – 6-8 men

Approximate cost: \$1800 per person

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## Memorial Service To Honor Marines

by Rev. A. Barry Jones, Pastor Emeritus, Carlsbad Community Church



Eleven hundred US Marines along with a hundred family members gathered at Carlsbad Community Church in July for a memorial service to honor the ultimate sacrifice paid by eleven of their fallen comrades in Iraq.

The service was planned by CCCC Navy Chaplain Lt. Wayne Hall who, along with the Marines of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, had returned only days before from Iraq and the costly battle for the city of Fallujah. Needless to say, this was a moving and impressive service conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Byrne, Commanding Officer, and Chaplain Hall. Lt. Colonel Byrne spoke with conviction

about his firm belief in the resurrection of Christ, and Chaplain Hall exalted the Savior in his prayers and sermon.

**Honoring  
Eleven Fallen  
Comrades.**



# CCCC People to Pray For

Please Pray For:

- Churches seeking pastors and pastors seeking churches
- United States Elections and Political Leaders
- Peace and Stabilization in Iraq
- Protection for our Troops around the world, including our CCCC Chaplains
- CCCC Missionaries serving on the front lines throughout the world
- CCCC Outreach and Services Council meeting November 11-13 in St. Paul

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## Victory Over Evil

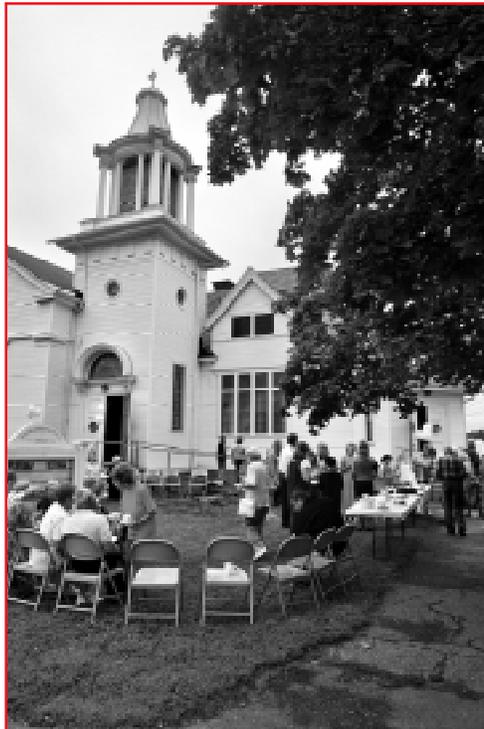
by Rev. Scott Cleveland, Second Congregational Church, Brewer, ME

*“A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.”* Psalm 37:10

On July 30, 2004, the pornography shop Pandora’s Boxxx left in the same manner as it had arrived – in secrecy. God’s grace prevailed and the “impossible” was achieved by the courageous stand of a few ordinary citizens. In the fall of 2002 Northshore Distributors sought permits to open a video store in a residential neighborhood (roughly 75 ft from the Second Congregational Church of Brewer, Maine) by concealing that the business was a franchise specializing in hard-core pornography. When the deception was revealed, the City Council attempted to enforce ordinances prohibiting sexually oriented businesses in residential zones but quickly gave up when the owners filed a lawsuit claiming infringement of their First Amendment rights. Despite public outcry against the porn shop’s close proximity to school bus stops, playgrounds, historic landmarks, and two churches, the Council signed a settlement allowing the business to remain in its illegal location in perpetuity and exempt from future ordinances regulating sexually oriented businesses and exempt from background checks on owners or employees.

Although councilors claimed that “nothing can be done”, the neighbors and Second Congregational Church continued fighting, using prayer, public protests, and a lawsuit. Attorney David Szewczyk, who wanted to help the

community, agreed to take the case for a set fee. Numerous donations from neighbors and the congregation, and a generous grant from the Cecil B. Day Foundation provided the necessary funds. Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) also gave a substantial grant for legal costs, which was ultimately not used. In January 2004, Mr. Szewczyk filed a lawsuit based on decreased property values, nuisance (including vandalism, increased crime, neighborhood blight, noise, etc.), and fraudulent deception by the owners in seeking business permits.



In July, the lawsuit was settled (terms must remain confidential), and the owners left the premises. We saw God’s work throughout the battle such as finding a god-fearing attorney and protection of the protestors from physical threats. God also provided spiritual growth as we prayed for our community, followed prayer with active obedience in faith, trusted God’s response to our obedience, and witnessed how God accomplishes great things with just a few faithful believers.

**This article is a follow up to a previous article that ran in the March/April 2004 issue of THE FORESEE. It illustrates the dramatic results that can be achieved when God works through faithful obedient Christians and overcomes evil.**

## A Handy Reference List for Emergencies

When in sorrow.....John 14  
When men fail you.....Psalm 27  
When you have sinned.....Psalm 51  
When you worry.....Matthew 6:19-34  
When you are in danger.....Psalm 91  
When God seems far away.....Psalm 139  
When your faith needs stirring.....Hebrews 11  
When you are lonely and fearful.....Psalm 23  
When you grow bitter and critical.....1 Corinthians 13  
When you feel down and out.....Romans 8:31  
When you want peace and rest.....Matthew 11:25-30  
When the world seems bigger than God.....Psalm 90  
When you want Christian assurance.....Romans 8:1-30  
When you leave home for labor or travel.....Psalm 121  
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish.....Psalm 67  
When you want courage for a task.....Joshua 1  
When you think of investments and returns.....Mark 10  
If you are depressed.....Psalm 27  
If your pocketbook is empty.....Psalm 37  
If you are losing confidence in people.....1 Corinthians 13  
If people seem unkind.....John 15  
If you are discouraged about your work.....Psalm 126  
If self pride/greatness takes hold.....Psalm 19  
If you want to be fruitful.....John 15  
For understanding of Christianity.....II Corinthians 5:15-19  
For a great invention/opportunity.....Isaiah 55  
For how to get along with fellow men.....Romans 12  
For Paul's secret to happiness.....Colossians 3:12-17  
For dealing with fear.....Psalm 34:7  
For security.....Psalm 121:3  
For assurance.....Mark 8:35  
For reassurance.....Psalm 145:18

## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes:

Burlington CO Hope Congregational Church\* called Carl Rogers\*  
Ashburnham MA Peoples Evangelical Congregational Ch\* called Dan Allen\*

### Pastoral Openings:

Hebron CT First Congregational Church\*  
Freeport IL Zion Church\*  
N Aurora IL Union Congregational Church\*  
Stillman Valley IL Congregational Christian Church (Ind)  
Pownal ME First Parish Congregational Church  
Fitchburg MA Elm Street Congregational (UCC)  
Mansfield MA First Christian Church\*  
Westford MA Westford Bible Church (Ind)  
Clarkston MI First Congregational Church (NACCC)  
Milton Mills NH Liberty Congregational Church\* (part time)  
New Ipswich NH New Ipswich Congregational Church\*  
Peterborough NH Trinity Evangelical Church\*  
Wolfeboro NH First Christian Church\*  
Climax NY Medway Congregational Church\* (part time)  
Parkman OH Parkman Congregational Church\*  
Philadelphia PA St. Mark's Reformed Church\*  
Warfordsburg PA Buck Valley Christian Church\*  
Orwell VT First Congregational Church (Ind)

\* = Conference member

+ = In process

## Promotions to Glory

Rev. Harry A. Foster: April 20, 1921 - August 14, 2004

Rev. Foster served the Congregational Church in North Chelmsford, MA for thirty years, from 1961 until his retirement in 1991. Under his faithful Biblical leadership, the church joined the CCCC in 1980. Rev. Foster was an active member of the New England regional CCCC fellowship, and is survived by his wife Ginny, and four children: Sandy, Hank, Robbie, and Jesse.

## Health Tips

### Hot Tubs

If you are inclined to use a hot tub or spa when you are vacationing, be aware the warmer water causes chlorine or other disinfectants to evaporate more quickly than in pools. As a result, you may increase your risk of exposure to germs that cause skin rashes if the hot tub or spas are not properly maintained. The rash will usually occur within a few days of exposure. Most rashes may clear up in a few days, however, if your rash persists, consult your healthcare provider.

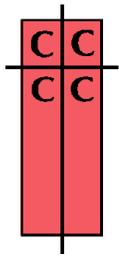
Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### Eating Out

Some smart choices to consider when you are at a restaurant and following a low fat, low cholesterol diet include: ordering vegetables instead of French fries, pick lean meat, fish or skinless chicken, have your entrée broiled, baked, grilled steamed or poached instead of fried; request sauces or butter be left off food, low calorie salad dressing on the side, fresh fruit or fruit sorbet in place of cake, pie or ice cream desserts. Bringing a "doggy bag" home is always an option when the serving size is large. These are just a few ideas to help you enjoy eating at restaurants with friends and family and still maintain your diet.

Source: [americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org)

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



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## THE FORESEE

November/December 2004 Volume 37, No. 6

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*“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your law.” Psalm 119:18*

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