

*“Building International Bridges of Witness and Fellowship”*

# THE FORESEE

*Conservative Congregational Christian Conference*

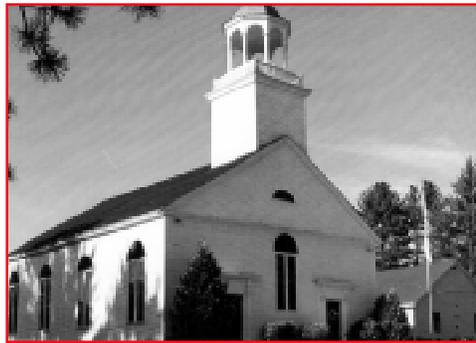
January/February 2005 Volume 38, No. 1

## ***Around The Conference*** ***Greetings from New Hampshire!***

By Terry Shanahan, Area Representative for New Hampshire

We are a cold weather state, but we're very warm for the CCCC. New Hampshire currently has nine CCCC churches, but that can be deceiving because we have about thirty credentialed people residing in New Hampshire. We have an active group, which meets monthly for lunch and fellowship in Concord, NH to encourage and support one another. The most recent church to join the CCCC in New Hampshire is the Loudon Congregational Church.

The Loudon Congregational Church was founded October 29, 1789 and was originally named the



*Loudon Congregational Church*

Congregational Calvinistic Baptist Society. The original congregation consisted of ten members, including the founding pastor, Rev. Jedediah Tucker. Pastor Dave Randlett was called to the Gospel Ministry at Loudon in 1997 and was ordained there April 17, 1999. Formerly under Conference Care with the CCCC, and pastor of a CCCC church plant in Tilton, NH, he rejoined the CCCC in 2003. The Loudon Congregational Church also voted to affiliate with the CCCC in 2003 and was welcomed into the Conference at our Annual Meeting last July in South Dakota.

## ***Somali Outreach Project in Twin Cities***

Submitted by Pastor Garry Schick, Area Representative for Minnesota and Western Wisconsin,

Written by Pastor Ron Hamilton, Woodbury Community Church

The Upper Midwest Congregational Fellowship agreed to assume oversight of the East African Outreach Project under the leadership of Malcolm and Barbara Collins commencing January 1, 2005.

The Collins' relocated to Minneapolis in 2002 after a long ministry in Kenya, Africa with Africa Inland Mission. They were burdened to form an outreach ministry to a large population of Somali immigrants in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. It is estimated that over 50,000 Somali immigrants have moved to the Twin Cities in the last ten years. A partnership was formed between the African Inland Mission and the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference to oversee their work. A sub-committee consisting of Ron Hamilton, Tay Kersey, Cliff Christensen, and later, Steve Gammon met monthly with Malcolm to hear reports of his work and to pray for this ministry. In the past two years, Malcolm laid the foundation for this new work by contacting immigrants from East Africa in their common meeting places, sharing with immigrants interested in exploring the Christian faith, as well as supporting the ministry of newly planted churches for immigrants.

This new partnership with Malcolm and Barbara will provide more direct supervision of their work as well as link them with a network of churches in the Upper Midwest. The UMCF has adopted a goal to raise up a community of believers



*The Collins Family*

among the East African immigrants in the greater St. Paul area of the Twin Cities. A new sub-committee consisting of pastors and members of UMCF churches will be formed to oversee the Collins' in their work.

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## From the Conference Minister



In our Father's eyes the CCCC and every one of our ministers and churches is a family. Since Helen and I are adoptive parents, I especially like the Biblical reference of God being an adoptive Father, with Christians being His adopted children. Ephesians 1:4-5 says: *"For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will..."*

Being loved and adopted by God means we are forever His family, and that none of us are only children! In all of his letters to the churches Paul used the imagery of family. But in our local churches, and in the CCCC, do we regard one another as family? Do we look out for each other, pray for each other, and care about each other as families do?

Growing up as the second of six children, I learned to treasure many of the benefits of family. I remember being picked on one day at the school playground. My older brother came over and said, "You leave my brother alone!" In that moment I was so glad I had a brother! I knew I wasn't alone and my brother cared about me! This is why Paul cared enough to write letters to the churches! As family he was connected to them, loved them, and felt an obligation to them.

I have been in the CCCC family for 25 years. As I travel throughout our

Conference I always experience the special bond of family. One of our member ministers recently expressed it this way on his ministerial questionnaire, "The CCCC is my family!" Whenever we come together for regional gatherings or for our annual meeting, or whenever we meet with one another for encouragement and prayer, we are always reminded that God is our Father, and He has put us together as a family. This is true in our local congregations too. Whenever we come together for worship or fellowship, let us remember that these relationships are a priceless treasure, for our God has made us His family together!

I am prayerfully determined that in the fellowship of the CCCC we will enjoy and increasingly be together the family our Father has called us to be!



## God's Purpose for His Church

by Alvin L. Helms, Lay Ministry Committee Chairman,  
Oberlin Church, Steilacoom, WA

Leadership really is important. Leaders really do make a difference: sometimes good, sometimes not so good. You have probably noticed that our culture is cynical about the whole idea of leadership. To be honest there is a reason for some of this cynicism. So many leaders have disappointed us. And, the whole idea of being a follower is hard to swallow if there isn't even such a thing as true leadership.

The Bible, however, is not silent on these matters. In Ephesians 4: 7 – 16, Paul confidently declares that there are leaders (v. 11) and followers (v. 12) and each has an important role to play in the ministry and growth of the local church. If you read these verses carefully you will find the earliest and best job description for the pastor of the local church. The role of the pastor is

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to equip the people of the church for the work of service or ministry. Pastors at their best, function like coaches for the team.

Paul would have no patience for the modern problem in many churches where the pastor is expected to do all the work of the ministry. Why is that? That is because God has a job description not just for the leaders in the local church but for the members of the local church. To the members of the local church belongs the work of the ministry as Godly leaders equip them. And what is the result in a local church where leaders equip and members are involved in the ministry of the church? What happens when everyone does his or her job? According to Ephesians 4: 12-16, the Body of Christ is strengthened. There is a team spirit that

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## Carlton's Comments



When I visit one of our Conference churches, I try to keep my eyes and ears open to see if I can discover what activities might be a regular part of that congregation's evangelism strategy. In October we visited the Mendon Community Church in Massachusetts and as usual I was taking mental notes about that church's outreach ministry. In this column I would like to mention two of the strategies the congregation is using because some other churches might find ideas that they could use as well.

Begun as a church plant of the Medway Village Church before church planting became as popular as it is today, the present congregation was originally known as Friendship Bible Chapel. The name was changed a couple of years ago to better reflect the relationship of the congregation and the surrounding community. The Mendon Community Church is using a building owned by an area bocce club which is no longer able to maintain the building by themselves. As part of its responsibility in using the facility, the congregation assists in keeping it in good repair.

Every year the surrounding area holds an event which they call the Mendon County Fair. Individuals and groups are invited to rent booths to display crafts, various types of food and other items that might be of interest to the public. Activities of all kinds are also provided throughout the day. For fifteen years Mendon Community Church has had a booth at the fair where they pass out free Bibles and appropriate tracts to everyone who passes by. Several

individuals make themselves available to anyone wishing to talk. The town has made it clear that it does not want the church members to go around the fairgrounds buttonholing individuals and pressuring them to talk. As long as people come to the booth and talk, the members are free to engage them in a discussion which they do with some very interesting results. During the worship service the Sunday we visited, we prayed for several individuals who had spoken to those who were manning the booth the day before.

Also some from the church sing and play the guitar from time to time throughout the day. The music helps to draw people to the table where they see the free materials. Some results are immediately obvious, and others may not be discovered until heaven.

Also Ralph and Maria Abramo of the Mendon congregation conduct a nursing home outreach which they call the "Sonshine Ministry." On the second Saturday of each month the Abramos and a group of people from the church take guitars, a violin and their voices to the Continuing Health Care Center of Hopedale where they conduct a personal ministry with the residents. They state that their purpose is to "give cheer with the Gospel to the elderly who don't know the Lord and to give an opportunity for those who do a time to fellowship and sing to the praise of His glory."

God has unique opportunities at your doorstep. Pray for God's direction to discover those opportunities and then step out and use them!

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permeates the congregation. Best of all there is an exciting atmosphere that makes it hard for people not to grow in grace. This is God's purpose for His church.

Now for the important and hard questions: does our church function

## Bryan's Bytes

by Bryan Burrell

### Website Update and Mozilla

In case you haven't noticed, we have been having some issues with the provider of some of our website. We started noticing problems in September, and were unable to make changes to the website for all of October and some of November. As a result of this inconsistency, we are moving ahead with plan B.

Plan B consists of creating a similar website to the one we have now, but to have full control over all of its content. We are working on our own templates, databases, and the like and plan to complete this transformation by February, 2005. Please be patient with us as we undergo this transformation.

Additionally, those of you still using Internet Explorer as your only browser may want to try Mozilla. Located at <http://www.mozilla.com> this web browser is faster than IE and less open to some of the viruses, Trojan horses, spyware that currently plague IE. Try it out, you just may switch forever.

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with job descriptions like the ones that Paul lists for us in Ephesians? What are some things that would have to change for our church to be properly aligned with a better sharing of responsibilities for pastors and members? Here is another good question to think and pray about: what is my place in the body of Christ? May God enable our CCC churches to grow and be built up in unity and love as we each do what God intended.

The CCC Lay Ministry Committee is committed to the goal of encouraging, equipping and enhancing Lay Ministry in our Conference. If we can be of help to you, feel free to contact us at [alvinhelms@gmail.com](mailto:alvinhelms@gmail.com), or phone (253) 581-4577.

# CCCC Missionaries

## Let Them Stay Or Send Them Away

by Bob Wilber Associate Fraternal Worker (retired) Former Director, Mizpah Christian H.S.

“Do we let them stay, or send them away?” That was a painful question the administration at Mizpah Christian High School faced several times a year! Despite a modest tuition rate of \$30-\$40 per month, it was rare for a family to pay ahead, almost as rare to remain up-to-date, and common to fall behind. Most families in Micronesia live close to the financial edge. Most students live in extended-family homes where the primary wage-earners are responsible for 10-15 people.

In addition, many students face regular “financial emergencies” in their home. Some are due to the death of a parent or sponsor. Others are due to urgent medical needs which require critically needed prescription drugs or a life and death off-island trip to Guam or Hawaii. Still other emergency needs are the result of extended family events (e.g. funeral or wedding) for which a significant contribution is expected. In some cases, tuition problems are the result of family neglect or indifference. For most Chuukese, it is almost impossible to make a budget and stick with it.

Regardless of the reason, the ones who suffer most are the students. To send them

home inevitably means getting behind in school work. To let them remain usually means a tuition debt will continue to grow and creates a financial crisis for the school. How to find a balance between our responsibilities to school, student, and our calling from Christ remains an on-going challenge. (Pat Chiles indicates that Mizpah enrollment dropped, this year primarily due to “tuition problems” for returning students.)

On the positive side, one of the most satisfying moments of ministry at Mizpah (1993-2002) were those times when I would sit with the principal (Elvis O’Sonis) and vice-principal (Steioshy Manuel) in order to provide some scholarship assistance to those very needy students. That help was made possible because the Lord had led many in our CCCC family to give to the Mizpah Scholarship Fund. Usually our scholarship help would be limited to 1 or 2 months of tuition. But, often it helped us say, “Let them stay, don’t send them away!”



“Pat Chiles is the Director of Mizpah. He, Linda, & their children (Bethany, Joshua & Matthew) have been at Mizpah since January 2003.”



“Scholarships Helped Many of these Seniors to Graduate”

Let me say thanks to all who have given in the past. Your gift(s) have literally kept scores of students in school. And may I make a fresh appeal? The Mizpah Scholarship Fund is in urgent need of help. Would you be willing to designate a scholarship gift to the CCCC Micronesia Ministries? Let’s help Pat, Elvis, and Steioshy say: *Let them stay! Don’t send them away!*

## What Has Amherst To Do With Colorado Springs?

by Rev. Paul Sorrentino, InterVarsity, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

Tertullian asked the famous question; “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” He was concerned about the reliance of the faithful on the Greek philosophers and other worldly thinkers. I want to raise the question from a different perspective. What does a secular institution like Amherst College have to offer believers? Should a prospective Christian student consider attending anything but a Christian college? I asked several students with whom I work to help me answer the question. All of the students talked about coming to college for an education, but good educations are available at

Christian colleges. I do not mean to demean in any way the value of a Christian college. I simply want to ask what might be different?

Here are some of the comments offered by the students I questioned. “When I applied to colleges, I knew no one who was applying to Christian school...and I did not know that Christian schools existed. I did not know any Christians in my high school. I was not a Christian myself....” (New York student). Many students come to a secular college as potential Christian students. Who will be there to meet them? The greatest reason to attend a secular school is a mission’s

impulse. “I thank God so much for the people He sent to love me and help bring me to Him. In a lot of ways, I want to be used by God in the same way to reach other people. I think that is why I chose to attend a secular college.... Being at a secular school allows me to be used by God to share Him with people who otherwise might not be able to hear His message or experience His love” (West Virginia student).

Surprisingly, another key reason the students gave for going to a secular school was for spiritual growth. “I

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(What Has Amherst To Do With Colorado Springs? continued from page 4)

wanted to be at a place that would prepare me to live out my faith in a real-life setting. I felt that going to a Christian school would be like living in somewhat of a holy huddle for a while and then being unprepared to face the 'real world' after college. I wanted my faith to take some effort and also wanted to be at a place where I could reach out to lost friends around me" (California Student). Being in a pluralistic environment and having to choose for myself whether or not to 'practice the faith'.... has allowed my faith to grow...my involvement with the Christian fellowship here really sparked by the end of the year a desire in me to know Jesus better" (Nigerian student). I think it is hard to overestimate the value of an examined faith that is burnished in the crucible of a sometimes-antagonistic setting. Admittedly, the same setting does wear people down and can be a source of discouragement if not assimilation into the culture of unbelief. For some, a Christian college may be the right faith development program.

..... "I wanted my faith to take some effort and also.... reach out to lost friends around me."

One of the things we stress at Amherst is that all should be done to the glory of God as an act of worship. Students in the Christian Fellowship are involved in most areas of campus life: student paper, athletics, student government, tutoring, writing center, etc. This provides opportunity for vital involvement with people who might otherwise have minimal contact with Christians. The opportunities are exciting! The new college president wanted to meet some of the athletes. One of our leaders invited him to the athlete's Bible study where the group prayed for him. We held a multi-faith panel discussion on "Does God Want War?" prior to the Iraq invasion. It was well attended! Five weekly small groups study the Bible and invite friends to join them. There is a nightly prayer meeting of first year students who are driven to rely on God in new ways. Prayer has expanded recently to include a seeker-sensitive prayer time for those who are looking to connect with God but have no idea

## A Chaplain's Wife's Perspective

by Linda Langer, First Congregational Church, Buffalo Center, IA

It was my privilege to be able to share briefly the Chaplain's wife's point of view at the 4C Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota last July. My husband is Pastor David Langer of First Congregational Church in Buffalo Center, Iowa. He is also a Captain (Chaplain) in the 372<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Group out of Des Moines, Iowa. Currently, Dave is stationed in Balad, Iraq.

On November 12, 2003, Dave left us to begin his deployment training in Des Moines. On February 14, 2004, Dave departed for Iraq.

I am now a "single parent" with five children at home: Rebecca 19, attending Waldorf College; Andrea 16, 11<sup>th</sup> grade; Sarah, 14, 9<sup>th</sup> grade; Matthew 9, 4<sup>th</sup> grade home schooled and Elizabeth, age 2. Through the daily experiences and unusual circumstances, I can understand single parenthood in a new way. I also understand more clearly when widows/widowers say how long and lonely the nights

are. I have had to learn how to jump-start vehicles, deal with hitting a deer and totaling out Dave's car. I've also had to deal with sewer backup with six inches of water in the basement, an inch of water in the basement again due to seepage, and of learning more about the computer. As a family, we do not watch the evening news. It just adds more worry and concern over Dave's welfare

as well as the welfare of his unit. Birthdays and holidays have a hole with the absence of Daddy.

Our church and community have been so supportive. I am fortunate that there seems to always be someone around to help me out when needed. On a daily basis, I am discovering that we are being immersed in prayer. I would not be able to get through the busy days, emergencies, and lonely nights without the strength given by our Heavenly Father.

I am at peace with the fact that Dave is in obedience to God. At this season in our lives, Dave is needed by God to be in Iraq ministering to our soldiers. I am so proud of Dave as he serves our country. Please remember our soldiers in your prayers, but especially remember our Chaplains as they minister to these men and women.



Chaplain (Captain) Dave Langer, Sarah, Rebecca, Andrea, Linda (holding holding Elizabeth), with Matthew in front of Rebecca

# CCCC People to Pray For

Be praying for CCCC...

- Churches: For God's presence and power and for the character of Christ to be evident in His Body
- Ministers: For courage and strength and joy, and for an increasing passion for Christ and His Word
- Leaders: For God's anointing and wisdom and vision
- Churches seeking Pastors and Pastors seeking Churches: For God's clear direction

## God's Builder: Teaching, Working and Living Where Faith Leads

by Steven M. Sweeney, Bemus Point, New York

He does it for the children. "I can even defy gravity," he said grinning crazily. "Do you want to watch me do it?"

Robert Johnson pulled out a thick leather belt and balanced it on a stick floating off his finger.

"It's an optical illusion, you know, but the kids don't know", he said. "They like it."

With tired hands he turned crude wooden cars he built, for inspection. Five steps away, by the window he fitted, in the house he built himself, sits his latest project – a two foot wide model of a wooden ox-cart carrying a decorated box.



"Well, what can I tell you?" he asked in a warm, choppy tone. "I made that with a little bit of help from friends. It's the Ark of the Covenant," he said pointing to the biblical object the Israelites carried. "Cherubims on top of the Ark were done by a friend – a carver; the rest of it I done."

His model is as accurate as he can make it, placing a miniature slab of the Ten Commandments, a small cup representing an urn, which contained the heavenly bread "manna", and a pussy-willow twig representing Aaron's staff, inside.

Complete with cherubims and a miniature slab of the Ten Commandments, the model is as accurate as Johnson can make it – so it will be a teaching tool. "I'm a show and tell kind of teacher," he said pridefully, "I always have been."

For more than thirty years, the 87-year old had been a Sunday School teacher and eight-year superintendent at Fluvanna church. Like the 150 toy cars he made for poor Mexican youth, Johnson plans to give the Ark away to children, this time at Fluvanna Community Church's Sunday School as his birthday gift to them.

"My birthday is on Saturday. On Sunday, instead of getting presents, I'm gonna give," he chuckled. "I don't need it anymore – showed it to everyone in this area. That's what I want to do on my birthday."

In between the two morning services he will tell the story of the Ark from Moses to after King David. "If I don't they won't see it again," he said of his presentation. "They will use the Ark to teach when they have something like this. ...." but it won't be the same.

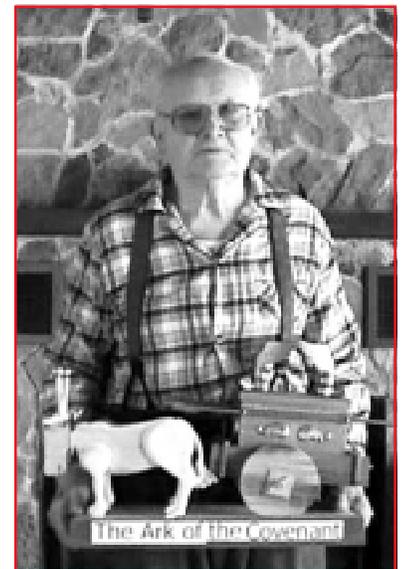
Johnson is the second oldest of thirteen children who were born "on a little place called 'song bird' up on the hills" near Bradford. "I grew up in the oilfields...and worked there for ten or twelve years with my father and brothers. I served in WWII," he said. "I was a house builder. I built over fifty structures, including everything in this house."

He also served a twenty-five year stint at Marlin-Rockwell Corporation and recently retired from his sons' wooden palette making business. He found time for God, read the Bible seven times through and raised a family. In his spare time he went to help build a church in Guatemala and made pencil boxes to reward students when they memorized fifteen Bible verses. There are many good children out there, but he is discouraged a bit by today's average Sunday School class.

"The kids don't come," he sighed, disgusted. "They're all tired out from sports or they're watching television."

He keeps plugging anyway, but why? "Because I'm a builder," he said, with his wife, Mabel, throwing in a few words of her own. "I love children and to do for children," he said. "I'm getting old, but I'm never going to give up doing that."

As one of three surviving children in his family, he is at least satisfied with his own work. "I've done everything there is to do" he said. "I'm going to be around for a long time." And, he will, until God calls him home, or as his wife said, "Until the heart pacer stops for a while."



# 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Conference

July 25-28, 2005  
Harrisburg, PA



## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes:

Fitchburg MA Elm Street Congregational (UCC) called Steve Mayo  
Milton Mills NH Liberty Congregational Church\* (part time) called Colin Gray+

### Pastoral Openings:

Hebron CT First Congregational Church\*  
Freeport IL Zion Church\*  
N Aurora IL Union Congregational Church\*  
Stillman Valley IL Congregational Christian Church (Ind)  
Lovell ME Faith Community Church\*  
Pownal ME First Parish Congregational Church  
Westford MA Westford Bible Church (Ind)  
Clarkston MI First Congregational Church (NACCC)  
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

## Health Tips

### Flu or Cold?

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It is spread from person to person by respiratory droplets caused by coughing and sneezing, although, on occasion a person may become infected by touching something contaminated with the flu virus and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. You may be infected one day before getting symptoms allowing you to spread the flu before you feel sick.

Unlike a cold, the flu begins suddenly and makes you feel fatigued, feverish (100-104), have muscle aches, joint pain, loss of appetite, headache and cough.

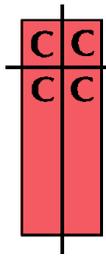
Source: [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org)

### Hand Washing

Good hand washing techniques, used regularly, can save expensive doctor bills. Remember to first wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces 10-15 seconds. Rinse well and dry your hands.

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

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



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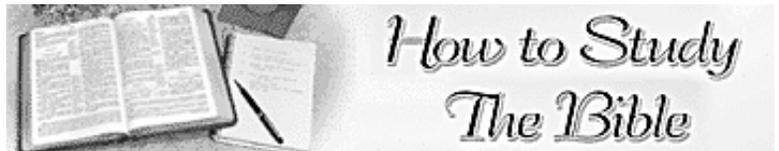
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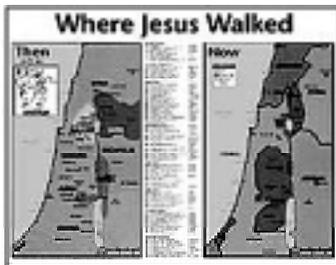
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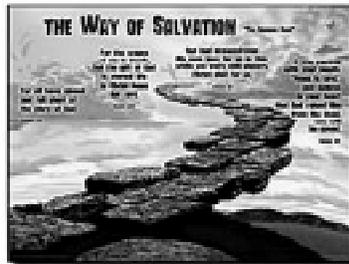
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*Bible Charts, Maps and Time Lines for Teachers, Bible Study Leaders, Homeschools, Professors and Pastors*

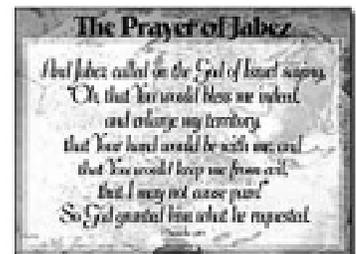


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***Way of Salvation***

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