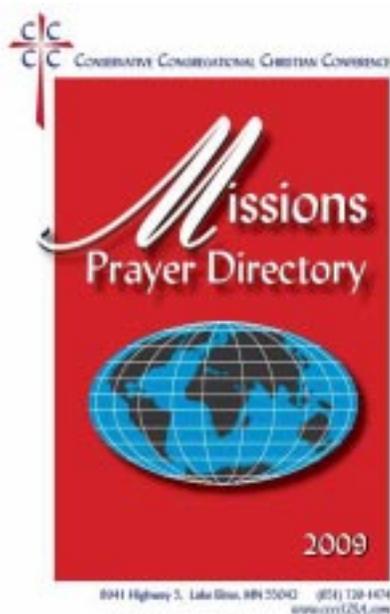


New CCCC Missions Directory Ready

Malcolm Collins, Chairman, CCCC Missions Committee



The CCCC Missions Committee (with a lot of help from Kim Gardell and the Editorial Committee) has just completed preparation of an updated CCCC Missions Prayer Directory. Final editing was completed in early June, and the first edition will be mailed to member churches in June.

Did you know that CCCC missionaries serve with at least 50 mission agencies?

Did you know that the CCCC has about 40 missionaries who have been serving for at least 25 years — many of whom are still in active service?

Did you know that CCCC missionaries serve in many parts of the world — from Haiti to Japan? from Africa to India? from China to Micronesia? From South America to Native Americans in the Midwest of the USA? from Europe to Asia?

Did you know the CCCC Missions Committee offers an amazing assortment of services to our churches, from help with recruiting missionaries, planning missions conferences, assisting with internationally recognized training seminars, offering coaching for planning short term missions trips?

This is just some of the information that will be coming soon in the new CCCC Missions Prayer Directory.

The Conference Office will send out copies of this new Directory to all member churches. It is the prayer of the Missions Committee that each church that receives a Directory will figure out a way to get copies to every person or family unit in their congregation — there is certainly “permission to reprint or reproduce or photocopy!”

Why prepare a new Missions Prayer Directory just now? Because prayer for missionaries is never “out of date.” In fact, prayer for missionaries is needed in this new century more than ever! Ephesians 6:10–12 is still true. Our missionaries’ struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Yes, they need to put on their spiritual armor, just like any other “soldier of Christ.” But like the New Testament missionary whom we know as Paul, each CCCC missionary would echo his prayer: *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery*

of the gospel. (Ephesians 6:19)

And now this question: 25 years from now, in the year, 2034, what will the CCCC missions force look like? Will 40 more missionaries, who are just starting their missionary journeys now, be still serving Christ in near and faraway places?

What will make that possible? The prayer momentum of CCCC churches, families and individuals praying for missionaries and keeping the missionary fires alive by encouraging the missions movement at every level of congregational life — from the early childhood Sunday schools all the way to classes for seniors.

It is the intention of the CCCC Missions Committee that this Missions Prayer Directory will be a small seed in the hands of CCCC members that will result in the planting of a new wave of prayer for our missionaries.

Watch for it when it comes to your church — or at the Annual Family Conference — whichever comes first!

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Following “Manufacturer’s Instructions” in a Local Church

Rev. Dr. Stephen Gammon, CCCC Conference Minister



Many years ago I bought a tricycle to give to one of our children at Christmas. On the box it stated the obvious: “Some assembly is required!” On Christmas Eve I tackled it, dumping the pieces on the floor and beginning the work of assembly. It didn’t appear to be complicated. I had seen lots of tricycles, and there weren’t that many moving parts! I took a cursory look at the instructions and dove in, connecting pieces until I was done.

At first glance it looked great! I was quite pleased with myself for doing this in such a short amount of time. After I had put my tools away I began to roll the tricycle over to the Christmas tree. That’s when I realized something was wrong. Tricycles aren’t supposed to bob up and down when they are wheeled, are they? That realization took me back to the manufacturer’s instructions which I had previously paid too little attention to. Now I could see the problem! I would have to dismantle what I had done, and this time follow the manufacturer’s instructions more carefully!

That experience was for me a life metaphor. The Lord has often reminded me in life that He is our creator-designer, and in the Bible He has given clear “manufacturer’s instructions” for me and for His Church! Those who are wise will search His instructions very carefully, to understand and apply those principles to life.

The Lord is the One who builds His Church (Matthew 16:18), yet in every congregation He accomplishes His work through His people, a local body of believers. Our part is to follow His instructions, to thus “build” what He intends to build in and through us. As we refer to the manufacturer’s instructions of the Word of God, we see that this is a case of “some assembly required,” but He has provided instructions for His Church to follow.

I perceive these basic “owner’s manual” steps that must all be applied by 21st Century congregations that would be pleasing to Jesus. They are these:

1. ***Desire God’s Vision*** — Be seeking a Biblical conceptualization of God’s future for this church. What does this church in the future look like to Jesus? He knows!
2. ***Pray as a Way of Life*** — Be devoting yourselves to prayer! This is to be a way of life today just as it was for Jesus and for the early Church
3. ***Delegate Ministries and Responsibilities*** — Be like Christ, serving and equipping to serve!
4. ***Develop Ministries under the Holy Spirit’s Direction*** — Be developing Ministries to accomplish the work God calls us to do, training and supporting those whom He calls!
5. ***Keep Reaching out to Pre-Christians*** — Be continually aiming to follow Jesus’ example of incarnational ministry. Be going beyond the “holy huddle” into the marketplace; beyond your own “comfort zone” to bring the presence and truth of Christ to people who have not yet met Him.

(To read an expanded version of this article, click [here](#)).



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CCCC Annual Family Conference July 20–23

Join hundreds of our CCCC family members July 20–23 for our 61st Annual Family Conference at the [Ramada Hotel and Convention Center in Waterloo, Iowa](#) — the heartland of America.



Register online at

<http://www.regonline.com/checkin.asp?EventId=714268>

GOD AT WORK

Rev. Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

As I write this article I have just been asked to put together my report for our Annual Family Conference. My first reaction was WOW, has it been a year already since we were all together in Buffalo? But when I reflected on all that has transpired, I think WOW, again. How did all of that fit into such a short span of time.

The list of what I have done and where I have gone is certainly long and may even sound tedious. Such as logging 27,000 miles on my car as I traverse the Northeast section of our country visiting 49 churches, preaching 25 sermons, presenting the Conference to seven non-CCCC churches, working with students under Conference Care at two seminaries and one Bible college, connecting with pastor groups in six states, participating and presenting at five regional fellowships, collaborating with eight Area Representatives, being involved with nine churches as they put pastoral search committees together seeking their next settled pastor, meeting with other denominational leaders for prayer and sharing, working in the difficult situations that some of our pastors faced and helping churches with conflict resolution through prayer and mediation.

Yes this list is long, but it is negligible compared to what God has done and is doing through the CCCC in the Northeast

and around the country. He has shown so much grace and so much favor as we in obedience are following the vision He has given us to reach the lost for Christ. The vision of being a Conference that comes alongside our existing churches to help develop and revitalize is paying off big dividends.

More than ten percent of our churches are in an intentional redevelopment process. The vision of being a Conference that resources healthy churches and pastors to plant new churches has become a reality in the Northeast and elsewhere. A recent church planting seminar I attended hosted 17 people with the possibility of five new church plants down the road being developed. Young pastors are being attracted to and joining our Conference as never before. Other denominations have heard of what God is doing in our Conference and want to know about our vision. Many significant non-affiliated churches are asking for information about our Conference. As we approach our 61st Annual Family Conference we are preparing to share what God is doing throughout the Conference and the vision He has given us. For He knows the plans He has for us, and those plans are to prosper, not harm and to give hope and a future.



Organic Church Planting...

Dr. Ron Hamilton, CCCC Director of Church Multiplication



The Church Multiplication Committee is operating on the principle that we will encourage organic ministry development based on the Irreducible Core of Jesus' commandments to "Love God... love others... and make disciples as you go." We will build this into the DNA of our ministry as we recruit, assess, train, coach and resource planters and new churches.

Organic church planting reflects the

Biblical principle that we read in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7,

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

Organic church planting is centered on missional ministry that is formed out of obedience to Jesus. It reflects a ministry that is centered in love for God as a response of his unconditional love for us. This love flows out from the lives of the people in the church to others in their fellowship and to people from the

community where the church is planted. The measurement for ministry effectiveness is the making of disciples through life on life relationships, rather than simply getting people to attend church.

We encourage our church planters to develop their ministry first and then allow the structure of the church to form around the organic ministry. Many church planting efforts are model-driven, in which the organization of the church determines the structure of the ministry. An organic church plant may develop more slowly but has more long-term sustainable ministry due to the fact that the lives of people are being transformed by the Gospel.

Our new work in Hudson, Wisconsin has a regular Sunday gathering in homes. This small group of 25-30 people has started three outreach groups, and has already been invited by community leaders to provide leadership for a compassion ministry in the region. All this has happened before they have a name, a public gathering or any broad marketing of their work.

We believe that this approach to church planting reflects that heart of God and encourages people to obey Jesus and integrate their faith into daily life.

Addressing Anger

Dr. John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care and Church Redevelopment



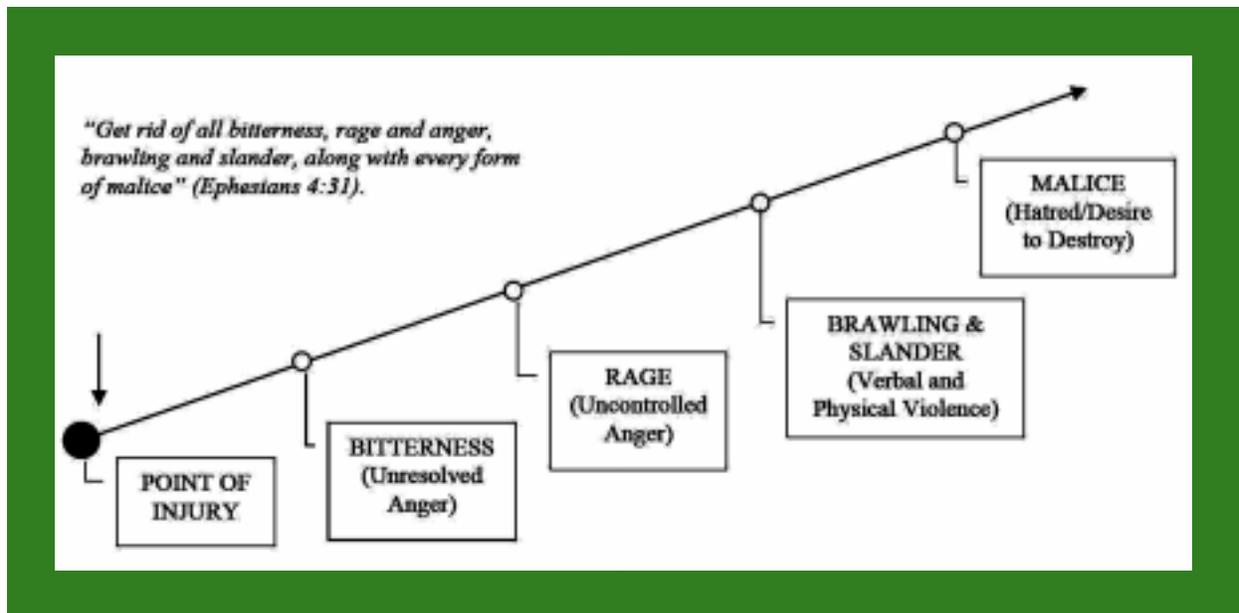
It can be a particularly traumatic experience for a pastor — especially a young, new pastor who is naïve enough to think that people in the congregation actually want to follow his lead in ministry. You may have seen this in your own congregation. A certain person (or people) has some “issues,” but the new pastor is clearly not warned. The individual “blows” and as the

pastor publicly takes it on the chin (so to speak), even the leaders of the church just stand there and watch — intimidated and dumbstruck. They are quick to tell the pastor later that they love him and support his ministry, but when he actually needed that support, they said and did nothing. This pattern is very common in local churches today — I have experienced it myself more than once. People just don’t know what to do with anger.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every kind of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31–32; see also Colossians 3:8)

In my last article (<http://www.ccccusa.com/anger1.html>) I talked about anger in the local church and tried to draw some Biblical conclusions about our experience and expression of anger. This month I want to talk about how we should be lovingly addressing anger in ourselves and in our midst. We need to begin by looking at the typical progression of anger. Paul articulates it well in his letter to the Ephesians.

In these short two verses, the apostle reveals the escalation of human anger. What may begin as a natural and even ethical response to injustice, sin or some kind of injury becomes sinful if it is allowed to remain unchecked. Consider the following diagram:



First one must identify whether his or her anger is just or unjust. Then the idea is to stop the escalation of anger before it becomes sinful — turning first into bitterness, then on to rage, brawling and slander, and eventually into outright malice.

Want to know more? You can read the longer, online version of this article on the CCCC website by clicking [here](#). May God bless you!

(We need to be reminded periodically that we do not and cannot stand alone. There are no Lone Rangers in ministry, as we need each other more than we often realize. One of the frequently-offered descriptions of the CCCC is "Unity with Diversity." As just such a reminder of the need for unity, I am reprinting the following from "Speaking Out" in Christianity Today, July 22, 1991, used with permission.)

The Myth of the Independent Church

Although many churches advertise themselves as "independent," proudly claiming to be free from the control of ecclesiastical bodies or denominational hierarchies, there is no such thing as an independent church.

Take the church I pastor. Because it belongs to no denominational group, it is considered independent. Yet this church's life and witness would be greatly impoverished without the support and resources of other churches. If has never had a pastor who was raised in its midst, for example. It operates no school, college, or seminary. We do not print our own Sunday School literature or write all our own music. Nor do we write or publish books for Bible study. We operate no radio or television station. Even the missionaries we help need support from other churches. We read periodicals, attend conferences and seminars, and even use films, tapes, and computer software produced by others. Every phase of our ministry is dependent upon others — other Christians and other churches.

By contrast, the word *independent* means "not dependent" or "free from control." It is an unfortunate choice of words. Of course, no Christian or church would claim to be free from dependence on God or his sovereignty. We depend upon Him for our life, health, salvation, instruction, growth, and destiny. Our churches rely on Him for their power and effectiveness (although sometimes we seem to depend more upon methods, intelligence, and charisma). Independent churches are not claiming otherwise, so why use such potentially misleading terminology? *Independent* is too easily read in our culture as a justification for a myopic "rugged individualism."

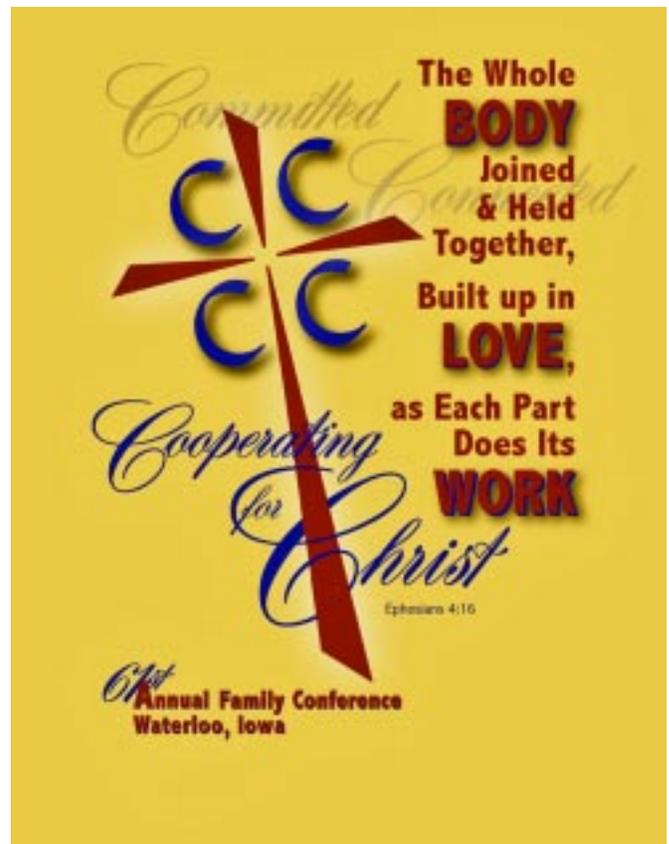
There are other theological problems with independence. Independence is not the opposite of unity, but it works against it. Jesus tried to promote unity among his followers. Before his crucifixion, he prayed that they would become one (John 17:20–23). Luke emphasizes in Acts 15 that the apostles were sufficiently concerned about unity to call a church council to bring believers to consensus and keep factions from developing. And Paul strongly preached unity in his letters (I Corinthians 3:4–7; Ephesians 4:7–13). This unity involved *inter*-dependence, not independence.

Even with all the disagreements of believers in the New Testament on law and grace, circumcision, eating of meat offered to idols, and qualifications for leadership, splintering into independent groups is never advocated. In fact, one of the few offenses that give us reason to separate from a brother, is the offense of causing disunity: "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions... Keep

away from them." (Romans 16:17, NIV) Rather than permitting believers to divide into different churches, in 1 Corinthians Paul urged believers to heal the divisions and function as one body. Perhaps Paul would not require us all to be one organizational entity, but the notion of any church in a community being totally independent from the other churches clearly violates his teaching.

Perhaps worst of all, pride in our independence can become an arrogance that makes impossible true fellowship with believers who are not also "independent." Even as God reminded Elijah that there were 7,000 other obedient believers when the prophet feared he was alone (1 Kings 19:10, 14; Romans 11:1–4), so today's independents sometimes fail to see beyond the walls they have constructed. They are thereby unable to find the help and encouragement God would send them through other believers.

True independence is both undesirable and impossible. There are no really independent congregations. As individuals we need one another for survival. And as churches we need to become unapologetic partners with other churches for effectiveness in our ministry.



“Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” Luke 15:6

In a world where only people with power, wealth or attractiveness seem to count, God brings a radically different perspective. Jesus shows that even the one who wanders away is important. In fact, the wandering one is so important that the shepherd is willing to have the rest of the flock to go out and search for the lost one. And when he finds that missing sheep, the shepherd calls his family and friends together to celebrate.

There are so many ways to become “lost.” Jesus was speaking about Kingdom of God and the necessity for each person to come to saving faith in the Lord. He was also speaking of the local church. Children growing up can become alienated from their families. Confirmants disappear. People can become disappointed, hurt or bitter. Marriage problems can arise and one or both spouses leave “by the back door.” And sometimes people just plain fail the Lord and one another. What ought they to do — leave the church? I hope not! Because if so, we all would have to leave eventually — and I would have to leave first! No, in the Church — in the Body of Christ — is precisely where sinners should be found. That’s what Jesus thinks. He said, “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinner’s to

repentance” Again, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

That’s how God thinks and operates. In His Church every member has a place, a niche no one else can fill. Every one of us is custom-made — not one is disposable. That’s why the church can never say that one person is more important than another. Even when we wander away, God still cares enough to chase us down and bring us home.

That ought to be our attitude toward others in the church. “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” God is in the business of redeeming, retrieving, cleansing and reconciling. The process is clear in Scripture: confession of sin, repentance, forgiveness (sought and given), reconciliation, and restoration. The Lord’s goal always is restoration.

God seeks us out — no matter who we are or what we have become. Such love is beyond our comprehension, yet we know it is real because in Christ, it touches each of us. “For God’s own love is demonstrated in this, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Paul W. Astbury

Pastor of The Sherman Church, Sherman, Connecticut

Around the Conference

Chinese Ministry Comes to Western Pennsylvania

In 2004 The FORESEE told about the Myhr family (Scot, Sheryl and Corrie). As CCCC Commissioned Christian Workers, they left for China with OMF International to study culture and language in order to return to the USA and minister to Mainland Chinese students and scholars. In June 2008, they returned to the USA and spent some time near their home church, Carlsbad Community Church in California. God opened an amazing door, and in June 2009 they began an internship at the Pittsburgh Chinese Church — Oakland (PCCO). Since 2004 they have an addition to their family. Esther joined their family in November 2007 through adoption and through the prayers of many.

PCCO is located just 500 feet from where Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) come together. The church is about 80% Mainland Chinese and has been reaching out to the incoming Chinese students since 1995. Scot and Sheryl will be involved in the Welcome Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Campus Outreach, the Gospel Sunday School class, and regular church leader training. But their main

focus will be in the Happy English Corner and a new outreach-focused Friday night cell group.

CMU and Pitt have over 750 Chinese students enrolled, with over 200 new coming each year. There are many more involved in post-doctoral work and full time employment. Chinese also attend other colleges and universities in the area. In the last

few years the number of Chinese coming to the USA has increased dramatically, especially undergrad students who are more financially well off and independent.

Since moving to Pittsburgh, the Myhrs have connected with some CCCC members in the Allegheny Fellowship and hope to build relationships with other CCCC members in the Pennsylvania area.

Pray for the Myhrs as they minister to the Mainland Chinese students and scholars in the Pittsburgh area.

Pray that they will be a bridge to

the Chinese church where the students and scholars can learn about and grow in Christ in their mother tongue. Pray that the ministry would produce strong Chinese believers and many would return to their homeland and other countries and God would get the glory for His work among the Chinese!



Tech Tips

Teddie Techie

Since the early days of the Internet many churches have realized the importance of having a presence there. It takes a little money and someone with technical savvy to begin it and to keep it up.

Church web sites range from outstanding to poor. It's important to have a nice appearance and easy, logical links to get around. But there are a few other things of vital importance in having an effective site.

First of all, the home page needs to have sufficient information to identify who you are. I have visited many church web sites that gave no indication of where the church was located — no city or even state was indicated. Churches are people, and we want to know if the church we are looking at is in our neighborhood or across the country.

But perhaps the most important thing, and the one most often neglected, is the necessity of keeping the site up to date. Web sites with lists of

Church web sites range from outstanding to poor.

officers two or three years old, or promotional notices for events months past give a negative impression. I have seen sites with services listed which are no longer held, and even with a past pastor listed, rather than the current one.

Other problems are links that do not work and skewed pictures (pictures that make people look narrower or wider than they are).

Church leaders should visit their web site periodically with a critical eye to these things. Then lovingly guide the webmaster to continue to develop the site to its most effective use.

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes:

Avon, MN Avon Community Church (Youth and Family Pastor) *
Joshua Ottoson

Pastoral Openings:

Brighton, CO Zion Congregational Church * (Associate Pastor)
Wethersfield, CT First Church of Christ
Buffalo Center, IA First Congregational Church *
Garner, IA Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church *
Paul, ID Ebenezer Congregational Church *
Rockland, ID Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Blue Island, IL Evangelical Community Church *
Round Lake, IL Community Church of Round Lake *
Billerica, MA Community Congregational Church *
Boxford, MA First Church Congregational * (Minister of Youth & Music)
South Grafton, MA Union Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Brewer, ME Second Congregational Church *
Maple Rapids, MI Maple Rapids Congregational Christian Church *
(Youth Pastor)
Mantorville, MN First Congregational Church *
Kulm, ND First Congregational Church *
Loysburg, PA St. John's Reformed Church *
Suffolk, VA Cypress Chapel Christian Church *
Wilton, WI Faith Congregational Church *

* = Conference member

+ = In process

The Lord is the One who builds His Church, yet in every congregation He accomplishes His work through His people, a local body of believers. Our part is to follow His instructions, to thus "build" what He intends to build in and through us.

Health Tips

Stroke Awareness

A stroke is a medical emergency. Prompt treatment of a stroke could mean the difference between life and death — or between recovery and disability. Strokes are the leading cause of adult disability and the third leading cause of death in the United States.

A stroke occurs when blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted or severely reduced, decreasing the amount of oxygen and nutrients to brain tissue. Brain cells begin to die within a few minutes.

Reducing the known risk factors of smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, underactivity and high cholesterol can reduce your risk of stroke. Knowing the signs and symptoms of a stroke will help you or someone you know to get prompt medical treatment.

Your must act F.A.S.T. if you notice any of the following:

Face: facial droop or uneven smile

Arm: Arm weakness or numbness

Speech: Slurred speech, difficulty speaking or understanding.

Time: Call 911 immediately!

Even if the symptoms last only a short time, they need to be medically evaluated quickly. Recent advances in stroke treatment increase survival rates and minimize permanent disability. These treatments need to begin within 3 hours of onset of stroke symptoms. Time lost is brain lost.

Source: Care Link April-May 2009 and American Stroke Association

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



Conservative
Congregational
Christian
Conference

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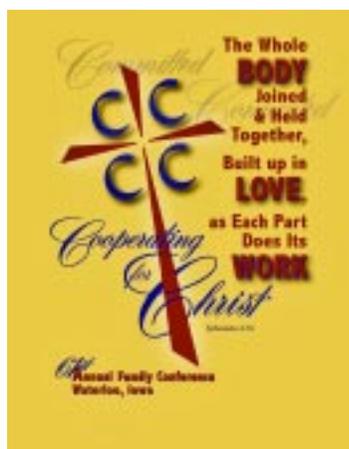
THE FORESEE

July 2009 Volume 41, No. 7

CCCC 61st Annual Family Conference

July 20–23 in Waterloo, Iowa at Ramada Hotel and Convention Center

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16



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