

## Around the Conference

### Multi-Cultural Mission Outreach in the City of Brotherly Love

from Lenn Zeller, Area Rep for Eastern Pennsylvania, written by Herb Anderson, pastor of Snyder Ave. Congregational

Snyder Avenue Congregational Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has experienced wonderful evidence of how God works in amazing ways to build His Kingdom. During the summer of 2009, a little boy came to Pastor Anderson's Sunday School class, and we quickly realized that he was able to speak very limited English. Naturally, we welcomed the child as best we could and learned that he was from Nepal. Several weeks later he returned with a number of Nepalese adult refugees who had been recently settled in South Philadelphia. Despite the language barrier, our Nepalese visitors continued to return to worship with us. In the meantime, we also learned of non-English-speaking Laotian families who had moved into the area and were looking for a place of worship.

It was just within a matter of weeks that God prompted Chay Oudomkhathi, a Laotian pastor from Binghamton, New York, to visit our church. He asked us to consider the possibility of using our facilities to establish a church to minister to the growing Laotian immigrant community in South Philly. Our Mission and Trustee Boards prayerfully considered the request and worked out an arrangement to share our facilities in another outreach ministry in addition to the English, Cambodian, and Hispanic fellowships that were already established. What a joy it has been to see God's plan unfold as we reach out to needy people from around the world. Pastor Chay has worked tirelessly in establishing New Life Church, an outreach to both the Laotian and Nepalese communities.



Pastor Herb Anderson

In addition to the teaching and worship ministries that are presented in both the Laotian and Nepalese languages, Pastor Chay and his assistant Phasouk Vongthangdy have been able to establish liaisons with several faith and community organizations in Philadelphia in order to further meet the spiritual and material needs of these immigrant communities. The Snyder Avenue Church is working in close concert with the New Life Church in several endeavors: children's and music ministries under the direction of Sherri Anderson, youth ministry by Malerie Goodman, cooperative mission efforts which include support for Pastor Chay, Christmas gift drives, clothing drives and distribution, and occasional combined worship services with translation. Additionally, at our 2010 Annual Meeting, the Snyder Avenue Church called Pastor Chay as Associate Pastor in Charge of Missions.

Currently, Snyder Avenue Congregational Church (Rev. Herb Anderson), located at 300 Snyder Avenue in South Philadelphia, houses the Cambodian Baptist Church

(Rev. Chantha Kan), New Life Church (Rev. Chay Oudomkhathi), and Iglesia de Dios (Rev. Nester Rodriguez) in addition to the host congregation. In the past, we also shared our facilities with the Indonesian Baptist Church, which had to



Snyder Avenue Congregational Church

disband when their pastor was required to return to his homeland. We have always had a heart for missions but have sometimes been limited in how much financial support we could provide because of the demographics of our parish. It thrills our hearts to see how the Lord has literally brought the mission field right to Third and

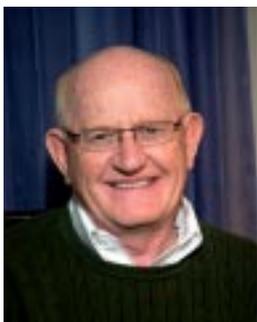
Snyder! All of the churches meet regularly to address both our individual and corporate needs, and God has truly given us a spirit of unity as we seek to win the lost, edify the saints, and be a shining light in this dark world.

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## The Ministry of the CCCC (Part 3 of 3): Where We're Going

by Rev. Dr. Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister



The Board of Directors is working with a Guiding Coalition of leaders appointed by the Board to develop a statement of the values and vision of the Conference. The Board reviewed an Executive Summary at the Annual Meeting in July and will meet again in February, 2012 to discuss processing and implementing this vision.

The opening words of the Executive Summary include this statement:

*The Guiding Coalition perceives that the direction that the Lord is leading the CCCC is consistent with the vision and priorities of the Conference since it began in 1948. This work flows from the teaching of Scripture and is rooted in the local church. The CCCC has consistently emphasized that the strength of the Conference is anchored in the "grassroots" ministry of our pastors and churches. We believe that the Lord is now leading us to join together to do His work in this generation with the same conviction and courage that has characterized the CCCC for over 60 years.*

While the Board processes this work, it is important to share parts of the vision that has already been made public. The vision for church multiplication is articulated in this statement:

*We believe that by the year 2020 over one-half of the member churches in the Conference will be healthy, reproducing churches started by the CCCC in the 21st Century. A majority of these new churches will be planted in major metropolitan areas and will reach people from every generation and ethnic group... Other churches will be born in rural and suburban settings as daughter churches of existing CCCC member churches that have rediscovered their mission to make disciples and impact their communities. We envision that every CCCC church will know the joy of birthing one or more daughter churches.*

The Church Redevelopment Committee has recently developed this statement:

Developing CCCC pastors and churches through whom the life of Christ flows to their local communities.

- Assessing, equipping, and guiding CCCC pastors and churches into renewed identity and life through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Building healthy, growing and reproducing CCCC pastors and churches which expand the kingdom of God.
- Calling CCCC pastors and churches to obedience to the Lord's commands of loving God, loving others, and making disciples.
- Depending through prayer on God's Presence in CCCC pastors and churches.

The Lord is preparing the CCCC for some exciting days of ministry in coming years. Please join me in praying for the Conference as we implement the vision that God is laying on our hearts.

Part 1 – *Where We've Been* – June 2011

Part 2 – *Where We Are* – July 2011

## THE FORESEE

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Deadline for the October 2011 issue is August 20, 2011.

## 2012 Conference To Be Held in Colorado Springs

Our 2011 Conference is now history, and God has indeed blessed us. It is now time to begin thinking about the summer of 2012, and mark our calendars with preliminary plans.

The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference will hold its 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Conference July 16–19, 2012 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Those dates are a little earlier than the last four years; so be sure to mark them now.



## Good News in the Midst of Troubling Times

by Rev. Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

We have recently come back from our CCCC Annual Family Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, a real sense of family and of being there for one another. Annual Conference has been a place for us to share our joys and our burdens. Some of our churches shared their successes and some shared their struggles. In my 14 years of attending the Annual Conference, in many ways this has been our most inspiring Conference yet. We took into our Conference seven new churches in the Northeast alone. Among them the International Christian Fellowship, an African church in Portland, Maine. This is yet another church that has sought us out to come under a Biblical umbrella and to fellowship with like-minded believers.

This church, representative of 17 African nations, realized the importance of not being independent but being part of something bigger than themselves. They were longing for accountability and fellowship and national identification. Many have lost family to tribal violence back home. They have sacrificed much to come to America. It was clear that despite all their loss and sacrifice, they seek to follow Christ and follow him faithfully. They want to partner with us in the Conference because they see us following Jesus Christ. I believe this speaks not only to who we are as a Conference, but who we are becoming as a Conference.

As we have captured the vision of church revitalization and church multiplication, we are becoming a Conference that has opened its arms much wider to embrace a richer and more diverse fellowship of member churches and pastors. This is what we celebrated at our Conference this year as we shared the vision God has given



us, the direction He has called us and the unity within diversity that He is showing us along the way. Not only are churches seeking us out to join with us as we follow God, but new works are being planted, to the extent that we pray by the year 2020 that 50% of our membership will be from new works of God planted in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I share this exciting news in this time when the world is shaking from all the troubling news we hear every day. And yet we see that God is abundantly faithful, and able to do more than we could ask or imagine. There could not be a more exciting time for the Conference as we reach out to a hurting world with the offer of Jesus Christ's love, grace and forgiveness. May God continue to bless the Conference as we continue to claim Him.

## Peacemaker Ministries Conference

*(The CCCC has a great, ongoing partnership with Peacemaker Ministries. Several of our leadership have been through their excellent training and a number of our member congregations have benefitted from their biblical process of Christian Conciliation. We commend their Annual Convention and their various training events to you with our blessing. — Dr. John Kimball, CCCC Director of Church Redevelopment)*

The issue of relationships and conflict is huge in our society. Every day people deal with struggling marriages, difficult in-laws, rebellious teens and frustrations at work. Whether you are a pastor in your church, lay leader or are employed by a non-profit organization, there is hope to live out the gospel in your everyday lives. [Peacemaker Ministries](#) tackles these issues at their [2011 Peacemaker Conference](#) in Orlando, Florida. Amidst the tropical surroundings, "Hope in Brokenness" theme stories of heartache and deep despair will burst with the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Keynote

speakers Ken Sande, Tim Lane, Nancy Guthrie and Dickson Ogwang bring their personal stories of suffering, vast experience and the promises of Christ to provide the background for the God of hope to infuse hearts with everlasting truth. Choose from [over 50 workshops](#) to learn how this gospel of hope transforms how you resolve everyday conflicts at home, church or at work, or choose to take one of our foundational or advanced trainings. And with special pricing there is no reason not to join us this September and become a beacon of hope in this dark world.

## Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

64th Annual Family Conference

July 16–19, 2012

DoubleTree Hotel

Colorado Springs, Colorado

# Church Redevelopment AND Church Multiplication

## Father and Son Utilize CCCC Ministries

by Dr. Ron Hamilton and Dr. John Kimball

It is wonderful when a father and son share a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is awesome when they are also involved in Christian ministry as pastors of local churches. It is truly unique when a father and son can compare notes on pastoral ministry as they work to redevelop churches. Such is the case for Gary Evans of Highland, Michigan and his son, Todd, of New Haven, Michigan. Both have been integrally involved in the work of church redevelopment in cooperation with the CCCC.

Gary has served the Highland Congregational Church (HCC) for 25 years. During that time the church celebrated some wonderful seasons of ministry. Gary also mentored several up-and-coming pastors (including his son, Todd). But as the new millennium began, the church began to experience some challenges, and at about the same time, two of those former protégés established new church plants in close proximity to HCC. The hemorrhaging began and when all was said and done, nearly 40% of the congregation left for one or the other of those congregations. HCC is also in one of the cities most devastated by the 2008 crash of the automotive industry. But God did not give up on this precious congregation! The church asked for help from the CCCC, established an active prayer movement, began to work through the LifeFlow Redevelopment Process, and the fruit has been incredible! While numerical growth has been slow, the spiritual depth and community impact of prayer have been wonderful. The congregation at large is now successfully re-engaging their community, intentionally living out the gospel with hope, care and courage.

As Gary reflects back to the beginning of the process, he notes, “The assessment revealed that we had a number of gifts that God had given us — strengths He could use — and what we needed to do was to revision: taking aim on some things that we are able to do because God has gifted us to do them and move forward to fulfill our mission.” They have done precisely that, and it’s exciting to see the impact on the congregation.

Todd was called to serve as pastor of the First Congregational Church in New Haven in 2007. The church had declined to the point where they seriously questioned if they could keep

the doors of the church open. The church had been plagued with conflict and had an aging membership. Todd had just completed his seminary training and was excited to face the challenge of restarting a church ministry. He brought his youthful enthusiasm and energy to the church and began the process of revitalization as soon as he became pastor. The church engaged in the LifeFlow process in cooperation with the Church Redevelopment Committee. They recently completed the Horizon segment of the training and celebrated the adoption of a new vision statement on Sunday, June 5. The statement reads, “We are a community of Jesus’ followers involved in and reaching New Haven for God, so that all may grow in Christ, courage, and commitment.” They use the word LOVE to articulate their mission.

Loving the world around us

Overcoming life’s obstacles together

Victorious in living out Christ

Everlasting life for all



Todd and Dr. Gary Evans

“I knew that this was going to be a challenging endeavor,” Todd says. “The CCCC leadership helped me discover my gifts for ministry through the church planting assessment process. It was encouraging to know that Conference leaders would walk with me in the early days of my ministry. The church now has the confidence to step out in faith. We are committed to demonstrate a love for people in the community and let God work

through us. I am excited about the future now that the main leadership of the church is focused on the vision and wants to reach the community. God is opening doors for ministry that will reach new families.”

God is at work in unique ways through the ministry of the Highland Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church of New Haven. We praise God for the faithful ministry of Gary and his son, Todd. Their ministry serves as an example to many who desire the Lord to work to revitalize the ministry of the local church.

## Increase Mather

Increase Mather was the most prominent of the second generation ministers in New England. The first generation, including his father Richard, had all been born in England and conducted significant ministries there. Increase was American-born, in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1639. His ministry was devoted to the effort to preserve the spirituality and the vision of society and church order that his father's generation had brought with them. He struggled against the declining religious fervor, increasing materialism and desire for a more secular society that New England's growing prosperity produced.

Although he would become a great leader of colonial New England, Increase Mather initially believed his future would be in England. He graduated from Harvard in 1656 at the age of seventeen, and set sail across the Atlantic. With the Puritans in power under the leadership of Oliver Cromwell, Britain seemed to be a place of great opportunity for him. He received an M.A. from Trinity College in Dublin, preached in churches in England and served as a military chaplain on the Island of Guernsey. However, his hopes for an English career were dashed when the monarchy was restored and Puritans were ejected from their pulpits.

Returning to America, he was called as pastor of the North Church in Boston in 1664, and remained its pastor for almost sixty years. He married Maria Cotton, daughter of John Cotton, pastor of First Church in Boston and probably the most influential of the founding ministers of New England. They had seven daughters and three sons. His son Cotton served as his associate pastor at North Church for thirty-nine years.

He quickly emerged as a leading voice among the clergy of New England. His first published work was a preface to a book opposing the Half-Way Covenant, the arrangement under which children of people who had been baptized but had not professed conversion could also receive baptism. His position was in opposition to that of his father Richard, who was the leading proponent of the Half-Way Covenant. Later generations saw the Half-Way Covenant as unwise, but Increase's father advocated it as a way that children could still grow up under the nurture of the church even as the general spiritual tone of the community was declining. Increase later changed his views on this subject, and came to agree with his father.

During the Indian uprising known as King Philip's War, Mather published an unpopular book in which he said that instead of blaming the Indians, the colonists should see the war as God's judgment upon them and repent. In the wake of this war, a disastrous fire in Boston and a devastating smallpox epidemic, Mather was convinced that God was

punishing a sinful land. He was instrumental in the convening of the Reforming Synod of 1679–80, which called the people of New England to repentance for their growing worldliness and declining morality.

Increase Mather performed valuable service to the Massachusetts colony by his diplomatic efforts on its behalf. When Charles II revoked the charter of the colony, Mather urged resistance. He was sent to England to negotiate on behalf of the colony in 1688. Through prolonged negotiations, first with James II and then with William III after James was deposed, he was able to preserve more independence for Massachusetts than any other English colony had, and even had the privilege of nominating the first royal governor under the new charter.



*Increase Mather*

When he returned from England in 1692, he found New England in turmoil over the Salem witch trials. His opinion was sought, and his book, *Cases of Conscience*, in which he condemned the type of evidence used to convict the suspected witches, is credited with bringing the witch trials to an end. He wrote, "It were better that ten suspected witches should escape, than that one innocent person should be condemned."

He served as President of Harvard College from 1685–1701, although he faced opposition because many of the authorities wanted him to live in Cambridge, and he refused, continuing to live in Boston and serve as pastor of North Church.

Though he was a non-resident president, he successfully brought about reforms, strengthening the Christian character of the classes taught, and improving discipline.

He was a prolific author, writing more than 125 books. He had the first printing press brought to Boston, and the printer made much of his living from the sale of Mather's books.

Increase Mather was conservative in theology, but was gracious to those with whom he disagreed, and showed flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. He opposed Solomon Stoddard's policy of opening communion to those who did not profess conversion and the policy of the new Brattle Street Church in Boston, which did not require members to give a testimony of their conversion, but he remained on friendly terms with Stoddard and the pastor of Brattle Street. While in England, he helped to bring about a union between Congregational and Presbyterian ministers. In later life he was willing to extend a hand of fellowship to Baptists, which Congregationalists had previously opposed. He followed his son Cotton in advocating inoculation for smallpox, even though most of the physicians of the day were against it.

He died in 1723 at the age of 84, and is buried in the Copp's Hill Burying Ground in Boston in a common tomb with his son Cotton and grandson Samuel.

# Checklist

by Jonathan Lam, pastor of Mattawan Community Church, Mattawan, Michigan

FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations state that it is the pilot in command's responsibility to determine if an aircraft is airworthy before flight. This begins with paperwork. The pilot is to make sure that engine and airframe logbooks are up-to-date. A full inspection of the engine and airframe is done on an annual basis and must be properly documented. Next, the pilot makes sure all required paperwork is on board the aircraft, such as registration, airworthiness certificate, weight and balance requirements, operating limitations and restrictions. The pilot also calculates the total weight of the load to be carried on the flight, including fuel, and where the load will be placed in the cabin for proper balance.

Next comes a walk-around inspection of the aircraft. With checklist in hand, the pilot inspects each item for airworthiness and integrity. Do all control surfaces (ailerons, rudder, elevator) move freely and correctly? Are the wings clear of snow and frost? Is the propeller free of nicks and cracks? Are there any leaks of oil, fuel or hydraulic fluid? Is the oil level appropriate? Are the tires properly inflated?

Once the engine is started, another checklist is followed and before takeoff, yet another checklist is completed. Once airborne, constant vigilance is maintained by the pilot and crew with, yes, another checklist! To complete the flight safely, there are more checklists: the pre-landing check, the post-landing check and the engine shut-down check. In order for any flight to be safe, efficient and fun, proper preparation is the key. Hours and hours of ground school reinforce the task of proper and thorough preparation for each and every flight.

There is a lesson here for each of us. Let me ask the question, "What do we do to prepare for worship?" In our entertainment-saturated, feel-good society, I'm afraid far too many people attend church poorly prepared, with the expectation of getting, of being entertained, of having needs met. Something is greatly missing when we attend church without preparation. I don't believe extensive checklists are necessary in order to enrich our worship experience. However, there are things we can do to prepare ourselves for a more meaningful worship experience. Here are just a few ideas...

- Getting a good Saturday night's rest prepares us to be alert Sunday morning. Most of us enjoy the weekend. It's a time to break the weekly routine, get some chores done, get together with family and friends, attend fun

events, chill-out and kick back. But if we stop and think about it, Sunday should be the most anticipated day of the week as we come together for worship. So a good night's rest and a healthy Sunday breakfast prepare us physically for Sunday worship.

- Try clearing your mind of clutter. Many things press upon us: the job, school assignments, children's schedules, etc. These things distract us from heartfelt worship. Worship is not one of those chill out times, but rather, it's an active display of our love and respect for God. We should come to church ready to work, that is, to participate, concentrate, meditate, to listen for and to hear God.

- Driving to church listening to praise songs helps us tune our minds to God. Mornings can be busy times for families. There is much to be done in preparation for the day. With proper planning on Saturday, Sunday need not be nearly as stressful as we sometimes make it. Parents, you have a great deal of

power in setting the mood for the day. Setting aside your own stresses of life for the sake of your children is paramount for a happy home. Your cheerfulness and eagerness to worship will rub off on the children and you will feel better about yourself, too.

- Try not to bring last week's "failures" into the day of worship. When Sunday comes, all disciplinary issues of the previous week should be settled. Make Sunday a fun, relaxing and worshipful day for the entire family as opposed to a day of scolding and discipline.
- Set a goal to have all homework completed by supper time on Saturday. This takes the pressure off Sunday and allows us to focus on God, not deadlines. This is a real challenge — believe me, I know. But this goal tells our children that Sunday is special. It's a day set aside by God for worship and rest.

Much more could be said, but let me close with this idea. Is Sunday truly a special day, the Lord's Day? Or has it become our catch-up day: catch up on sleep, chores, shopping, etc.? It's often said, "God gave us seven days. Let us give Him back one." God worked six days and rested on the seventh. May we, not with a legalistic checklist, but with heartfelt praise and thanksgiving mimic God by working six days and giving one to Him for worship and rest. After all, it's good for our body, mind and soul, while giving reverence to God.

Checklist complete; Let's worship!



## “If You Love Me, Obey My Commands”

by Paul Astbury, pastor of The Sherman Church, Sherman, CT

*Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19*

People who are devoted to the apostles' teaching are people who obey Jesus. They follow and submit to his authority. In the account of Jesus' final words before his ascension to heaven, Jesus reminds his followers that he has been given all authority. He is Lord.

But we have a problem with the idea of submission. Throughout history wars have been fought to preserve freedom and to protect people from repression and tyranny. Most cultures today value individual freedom and chafe at the idea of submitting to a higher authority. Yet the Apostle Paul makes it clear that all of us serve and follow something or someone — the question being who that master is.

But this obedience does not call for submission to a tyrannical taskmaster. It opens us to a deepening relationship with the loving Father and Creator who plans our lives and provides for our every need. Our heavenly Father knows our needs before we even ask. He knows what is best for us and will never do anything that will harm us. His plan and commandments are intended to give us a way of living that's far better than anything else. Jesus said: “I have come that they might have life, and have it to the fullest.”

The greatest minds throughout history have never improved on God's plan. Simply obeying what Jesus has commanded will lead to a rich and abundant life.

## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes:

#### Pastoral Openings:

Brighton, CO	Zion Congregational Church *
Buffalo Center, IA	First Congregational Church *
Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational Church * (Associate Pastor)
Paul, ID	Ebenezer Congregational Church *
Rockland, ID	Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church *
Monroe Center, IL	Union Church of Monroe Center *
Blandford, MA	First Congregational Church *
Chelmsford, MA	Immanuel Church *
Addison, MI	Addison United Church
Inwood, NY	Community Bible Church * (Part-time)
Wellington, OH	Pittsfield Community Church *
Russell, PA	Cable Hollow Church
Scotland, SD	United Church of Christ (UCC)
Suffolk, VA	Cypress Chapel Christian Church *
Orwell, VT	First Congregational Church (Ind.) (Part-time)
Barnes, WI	Barnes Community Church (Ind.)

\* = Conference member

+ = In process

## Promotions to Glory

Nelson R Chamberlain, born August 19, 1946 and died June 13, 2011. He joined the CCCC in 1989. He pastored Zion Congregational Church, Brighton Colorado for over 10 years and Wiggins Community Church, Wiggins Colorado since 2006, which was UCC but became a CCCC during his pastorate. He is survived by his wife, Rosana, and three daughters.

## Health Tips

### Car Safety Seats

Parents and caregivers of children have the important job of keeping the child safe whenever riding in a car. Proper use of car safety seats helps save lives and prevent injuries.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends all children younger than 13 years of age should ride in the back seat.

All infants should ride in a rear facing car safety seat until they are two years of age or until they meet the highest weight or height limits set by their car safety seat's manufacturer.

When a child outgrows their rear-facing seats they should ride in a forward-facing child safety seat, in the back seat until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age four and 40 pounds).

Once a child outgrows the forward-facing seat, they should ride in a booster seat, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly — when the lap belt lies across the upper thighs, not the belly, and the shoulder belt fits across the chest and not the neck or throat (usually at age 8 or when the child is 4' 9" tall).

After outgrowing the booster seats the child can use the adult seat belts in the back seat until 13 years of age for optimal protection. Avoid placing any child in the front seat facing an airbag.

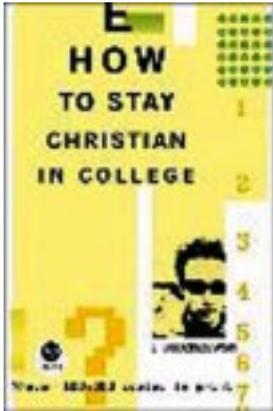
Protect yourself with proper and diligent use of adult car seat restraints, too.

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

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

# THINK: about God—about life—about others

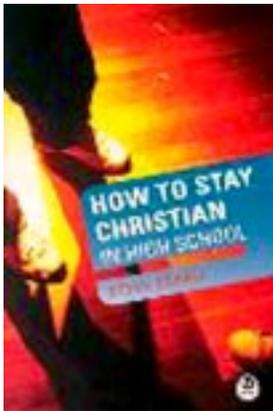
*I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13*



*How to Stay Christian in College* by J. Budziszewski

ISBN-13: 9781576835104 \$15.99

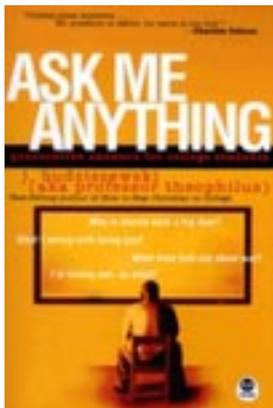
This book equips and encourages high school seniors and college-age students to meet the challenges of living out their faith in school.



*How to Stay Christian in High School* by Steve Gerali

ISBN-13: 9781576834244 \$15.99

High school is full of temptations. How can you stay focused on God? This book tells about teenagers in the Bible and how they handled hard issues. Their examples can help you remember your identity in Christ when life gets hard.



*Ask Me Anything* - Provocative Answers for College Students

ISBN-13: 9781576836507 \$12.99

Think through your opinions on controversial topics and defend your point of view to a skeptical world.

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Check out the publication website at <http://www.cccusa.com/foresee.html>



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