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CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATIONAL
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CONFERENCE

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www.ccccusa.com

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Pastors Call Men to be “Dangerous”

by **Bob Tolson**, *Rocky Mountain Area Representative and Pastor of Immanuel Evangelical Church, Fort Morgan, Colorado*

“Count me in!” Bob Tolson, pastor of Immanuel Evangelical Church, did not hesitate when asked to host a small group of pastors. The focus — disciple-making. CCCC member Ken Fulton, serving with The Navigators’ Church Discipleship Ministry, invited Bob to join him, along with two young pastors in north-

eastern Colorado. Soon other pastors heard about the group and wanted to join. The group currently consists of eight pastors, including CCCC pastor Mark Weinstein from Wiggins Community Church. These pastors have bonded with a common goal. The discipleship model of 2 Timothy 2:2 defined their purpose — “to pass on what they had learned to faithful men who will be able to teach others.” Meeting monthly, they explored what a disciple is and how to make them. At one meeting, Ken suggested using a ministry tool to motivate their men toward growth — a “Dangerous Man Day.”



Ken Fulton issues challenge to become kingdom men



Bob Tolson tells how to ‘Guard Your Heart, Guard Your Home’ in his workshop

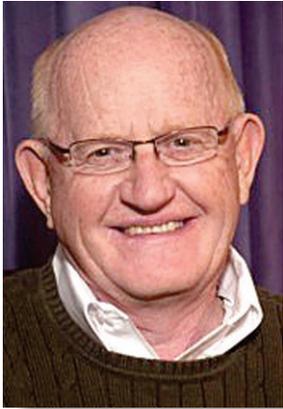
The Dangerous Man Day ministry was started seven years ago by Al Larson, a Navigator team member of Ken’s. Al wanted a larger event that would serve as a catalyst to ongoing spiritual growth — a place where he could bring men in his neighborhood. The unusual name came from the fact that Jesus was regarded as being dangerous (Luke 23:5). While men are all too often destructive, this event was calling them to be dangerous for good — dangerous for God! Catching this common vision, these pastors became the event team to launch a Dangerous Man Day for the men in their churches. The excitement began to spread as they also promoted the event to other pastors in northeastern Colorado.

Dangerous Man Day began early on a Saturday morning. Enthusiasm was high as twelve pastors, along with nearly 100 of their men, arrived at the Fort Morgan Nazarene Church. The event began with worship and a compelling message on “The Call to be Kingdom Men.” Then from a list of ten workshops, men chose three workshops to attend throughout

CM COMMENTS

Resourcing Our Pastors and Churches

Ron Hamilton, *Conference Minister*



In preparation for the 65th anniversary celebration of the CCCC, I have been reading some of the early issues of *The Congregational Christian Beacon*. This newsletter laid the foundation for the beginning of our Conference, which was officially formed in 1948. The CCCC will celebrate its 65th anniversary at the 2013 annual meeting to be held in St. Paul, MN on July 22–25. These are exciting days to celebrate the Lord's work in our fellowship and to envision His work through us in the future.

The November 1942 edition of *The Beacon* included the announcement provided by Dr. H.B. Sandine, of the development of The Extension Department. The announcement begins with these words,

Many requests have come during the past year from busy pastors and churches for suggestions and assistance in securing evangelists and Bible teachers for special meetings and conferences. Moreover, we have desired to give to The Congregational Christian Beacon, insofar as possible, an outreaching and far-reaching ministry. Hence for these two reasons, we are setting up this Extension Department, whose sole purpose will be to assist our Congregational and Christian Churches.

This announcement brings to mind some of our recent efforts to resource our pastors and churches. We have developed a ministry of Conference Care to encourage our pastors and churches as they face

challenging and trying circumstances. Our Church Development process is designed for “developing CCCC pastors and churches through whom the life of Christ flows to their local communities.” The mission of our Church Multiplication work is “To birth and develop healthy, reproducing churches by resourcing CCCC pastors and churches.”

From its inception, the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference has worked to come alongside our pastors and churches to encourage them in their ministries and invite them to participate in the larger work of building God's kingdom. While the context of ministry has changed dramatically in the past 65 years, the work of the Conference to assist our pastors and churches has remained constant. While helpful ministries are provided for our membership, each pastor and church is free to become involved in a way that best suits their ministry.

We have set out a vision for the CCCC to become “A Community that Lives out a Shared Life and Shared Mission.” Many of our member pastors and churches are being encouraged and are finding practical help in their service of our Lord Jesus Christ in this generation. I believe that Dr. Sandine would highly approve of our current efforts and see them aligning with the purpose of the Conference as it was developed in the 1940s. ♦

NE REGIONAL NEWS

The Condition of Our Heart

Terry Shanahan, NE Regional Minister

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
(Jeremiah 17:9)

In January of this year I was diagnosed with a heart condition known as atrial fibrillation. A-Fib is an irregular heartbeat that is treatable and rarely results in death, but at the same time is not a benign condition, as it can lead to further complications, ranging from stroke to further heart issues. In consultation, my brand new cardiologist recommended not just treating it with medications, which I would in all likelihood remain on for the rest of my life. His plan was to aggressively treat the condition through a procedure called cardioversion. This amounts to shocking the heart back into regular rhythm. I had this particular “shocking experience” on six different occasions with a total of ten shocks to my heart. This had limited results in that my heart would go into regular rhythm for short periods of time and then return to an irregular beat. This was disappointing to say the least, and led my doctor to comment that I had a “stubborn heart.”

I subsequently went into the hospital for a procedure called ablation. This procedure, designed to rid me of A-Fib, is one in which they placed probes into my heart, diagnosed where the beat was misfiring and either cauterized or froze those areas and restored the heart to a regular heartbeat. This procedure appears to have worked, as my heart is now in rhythm, and I will be monitored the next couple of months to make sure it remains that way.

This entire process was an eye-opener for me. Being dependent on others and having them decide for me where I would go and what would be done to me was extremely uncomfortable. I was annoyed that this interruption of my plans had happened at all. I had the added frustration of a recovery period that lasted way too long in my opinion. With full disclosure I need to say that I am not a good patient. I know I was tense and caused stress for those around me. I regret that. But God knew just how to humble me at this time. He slowed me down to get my attention, and there was nothing left to do but rely on Him and reflect on the doctor’s comment that I had a “stubborn heart.”

In fact that is the case for all of us, isn’t it? We are afflicted with a heart condition that is stubborn beyond all measure. Our selfish heart wants what it wants, when it wants it, and doesn’t care how it gets it. Unless we surrender that heart to Jesus, no amount of “shocking” it or “probing” it will cause it to change.

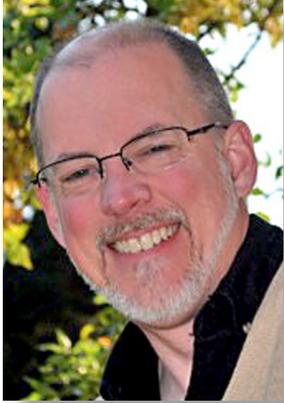
In retrospect I praise God for this interruption in my life and the opportunity to consider my heart’s condition beyond what is going on with it physically — to be reminded in the spiritual sense that a heart not fully yielded to God is corrupt beyond all measure. Truly a lesson of which I needed to be reminded. ♦



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

A Treasure

by **John Kimball**, *CCCC Director of Church Development*



As I write this, I have just returned from a precious time with several other pastoral brethren from around the country. Once each year we gather — and while there is some teaching and study, there is also vital prayer and deep fellowship. I have among these brothers something that is becoming hard to find today: authentic community. It's truly a treasure!

Many churches today suffer from what you have heard me refer to as "The Hamster Wheel Syndrome." Pastors and parishioners alike have an affinity for one another, but they do not have time to let that affinity grow into something deeper because they are all so busy — running full tilt in familiar activities, but not really getting anywhere. It is rare today when a church is able to foster deep and abiding relationships through which the Holy Spirit can rework each one into the mighty disciple He desires us to become. People do not want to expose how much about Christ and the Bible they do not yet understand. They're careful not to show their real heart. They keep things superficial, fearing what others may think about their convictions. They avoid accountability, and in so doing, any chance of real discipleship. Few among them practice authentic reconciliation of relationships — either from ignorance of how to approach conflict in a godly manner or because they do not understand that the relief of reconciliation is far more wonderful than the relief of avoidance. And so the Church's experience of fellowship remains at a light, social level rather than going deep to prepare us for full-blown and fruitful participation in Christ's mission.

Sometimes I wonder if even our language misleads people. We talk about a "personal relationship with Jesus," but I hope we understand that salvation is not simply an individual reality. We are not to be loners for the Kingdom, but are saved into community: we're a body — the family of God in Christ. It is in community that our God forms us into His instrument. It is in community that we learn to take our doctrine and turn it into a way of life that breeds transformation in and through us. It is in community that we find the tools, partnership and support for real reconciliation of hard relationships. It is in community that mentoring and discipleship become normal and we grow in maturity and the fullness of Christ.

Before the foundations of the world, from eternity past through eternity future, our Triune God has been in perfect community — Father, Son and Spirit — and He has designed us to function in the same way. We are to be in a loving communion with Him first, and then with each other. And yet, this foundation is all but missing in so many congregations today. We're fearful. We're suspicious. We're "self-contained."

Healthy churches continuously build community. The redeeming work of the local body is done in community, and much of what we do in Church Development focuses on fostering that vital piece of the church puzzle. Discipleship and spiritual formation require it. Would you like to know more? Contact the CCCC Main Office at 651-739-1474 for more information. ♦

HISTORICAL CONGREGATIONALISM

Declaration

by **L. David Green**, pastor of The Cornerstone Church, Beverly Massachusetts

(Following is the brief June 1865 Declaration of the National Council of Congregational Churches. It is a solid, clear, succinct and most excellent expression of the best in our US heritage as Congregationalists. This declaration was adopted at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the spot where the first meetinghouse of the "Pilgrim fathers" stood.)

DECLARATION OF FAITH OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES,

held at Boston, Massachusetts, June 14–24, 1865.

Standing by the rock where the Pilgrims set foot upon these shores, upon the spot where they worshiped God, and among the graves of the early generations, we, elders and messengers of the Congregational churches of the United States in National Council assembled — like them acknowledging no rule of faith but the Word of God — do now declare our adherence to the faith and order of the apostolic and primitive churches held by our fathers, and substantially as embodied in the confessions and platforms which our Synods of 1648 [year of the Cambridge Platform of church order] and 1680 [year of the Saybrook] set forth and reaffirmed. We declare that the experience of the nearly two and a half centuries which have elapsed since the memorable day when our sires founded here a Christian Commonwealth, with all the development of new forms of error since their times, has only deepened our confidence in the faith and polity of those fathers. We bless God for the inheritance of these doctrines. We invoke the help of the Divine Redeemer, that, through the presence of the promised Comforter, he will enable us to transmit them in purity to our children.

DECLARATION (cont. on page 6)

NEWS AND UPDATES

65th Annual Meeting

Seminars Announced

Speakers and other information has been given in previous issues of The FORESEE and is available online. Following is a list of conference seminars. Coming soon online seminar registration, full seminar descriptions and speaker bios; these will also be included in next month's issue of the FORESEE. ♦

SEMINAR TOPIC	LEADER
From Preparation to Presentation — Keys to an Impactful Preaching Event!	Troy Dobbs
Leading Boards that Matter	Pat Mazarol
Introduction to the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference	Nick Granitsas
Helping People Find Their Identity in Christ	Ed Rinehart and Rich Cook
Sharing the Jesus Film with International Students and Multi-Ethnic Immigrants	Nancy Weigel
The Changing Role of the Pastor's Wife	Sharon Galloway
The Life-Flow Process	Church Development Team
Leading from the Middle	John Sommerville
SAT-7 Christian Satellite TV Ministry to the People of the Middle East and North Africa	Don Zoller
Infectious Generosity: Building a Culture of Giddy Generosity	J. Loring Carpenter
The Seven Guiding Values of the CCCC	Paul McPheeters and Todd Venman
Leading Change in the Small Church and Living to Tell About It	Jeff Holton
A Life-Flow Roundtable Discussion	Church Development Team
Maintaining a Healthy Family in the Midst of Ministry	Shawn Winters
Church Planters Roundtable Discussion	Church Multiplication Team
Volunteer Development	Jill Fox
"Being Changed" in the CCCC	Paul McPheeters and David Kemper
Building a Positive and Effective Children's Ministry in a Very Negative World	Kimberly Park
What Needs to Change?	Shirley Dubeau
Prayer	Bob Bakke
Effective Children's Ministries Affect Church Growth	Lisa Jacobson
Leaving a Legacy: When a Church Must Close	John Kimball and Lenn Zeller
A Culture Shift: How to Best Serve at Home and Abroad	Randy Mortensen
Leadership Development	Jill Fox and Rob O'Neal
Effective Small Groups	Shawn Winters
Lessons Learned in 60 Years of Preaching and Teaching	Barry Jones
The Practical Pastor's Wife	Women's Ministry Team

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

Quest training in Carlsbad

by Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister

The CCCC is committed to recruit, assess, train, coach and resource church planters as we develop a church multiplication movement in our Conference. After being identified and assessed, the planter gathers a core group devoted to the mission of starting a new church. Once that core group reaches a critical mass of 15–30 people, the planter and the core group participate in a 3-day training called, “The Kingdom Quest.”

This training begins by providing teaching about the needs and opportunities for church planting in this generation. The instruction helps solidify the identity of the



Quest attendees in Carlsbad

structure of the new church community.

The Greenhouse Project in Oceanside, California joined in the Quest training in March. This church plant is led by Sam Harrell and the core group members were sent out by the Carlsbad Community Church. Members of the Missions Committee of the Carlsbad Church also participated to help them understand and support the new work. Pastor Harrell says,

The Quest training was an invaluable experience. Throughout the weekend the facilitator, Ron Hamilton, pushed our team into the scriptures in a loving and challenging way that helped us draw out our rock-solid identity in Christ, and from that identity, clarify the ways God is specifically calling our core team to love God, love others and make disciples. I really like how the training helped further develop our church's vision in ways that directly lead to action. The Greenhouse Project is already being more fruitful from the Quest training. ♦

DECLARATION (cont. from page 5)

In the times that are before us as a nation, times at once of duty and of danger, we rest all our hope in the gospel of the Son of God. It was the grand peculiarity of our Puritan fathers that they held this gospel, not merely as the ground of their personal salvation, but as declaring the worth of man by the incarnation and sacrifice of the Son of God, and therefore applied its principles to elevate society, to regulate education, to civilize humanity, to purify law, to reform the Church and the State, and to assert and defend liberty; in short, to mold and redeem, by its all-transforming energy, everything that belongs to man in his individual and social relations.

It was the faith of our fathers that gave us this free land in which we dwell. It is by this faith only that we can transmit to our children a free and happy, because a Christian, commonwealth.

We hold it to be a distinctive excellence of our Congregational system that it exalts that which is more above that which is less important, and by the simplicity of its organization facilitates, in communities where the population is limited, the union of all true believers in one Christian church, and that the division of such communities into several weak and jealous societies, holding the same common faith, is a sin against the unity of the body of Christ, and at once the shame and scandal of Christendom.

We rejoice that, through the influence of our free system of apostolic order, we can hold fellowship with all who acknowledge Christ, and act efficiently in the work of restoring unity to the divided Church, and of bringing back harmony and peace among all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

Thus recognizing the unity of the Church of Christ in all the world and knowing that we are but one branch of Christ's people, while adhering to our peculiar faith and order, we extend to all believers the hand of Christian fellowship upon the basis of those great fundamental truths in which all Christians should agree.

DECLARATION (cont. from page 6)

With them we confess our faith in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the only living and true God; in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, who is exalted to be our Redeemer and King; and in the Holy Comforter, who is present in the Church to regenerate and sanctify the soul.

With the whole Church, we confess the common sinfulness and ruin of our race, and acknowledge that it is only through the work accomplished by the life and expiatory death of Christ that believers in him are justified before God, receive the remission of sins, and through the presence and grace of the Holy Comforter are delivered from the power of sin and perfected in holiness.

We believe also in the organized and visible Church, in the ministry of the Word, in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, in the resurrection of the body, and in the final judgment, the issues of which are eternal life and everlasting punishment.

We receive these truths on the testimony of God, given through prophets and apostles, and in the life, the miracles, the death, the resurrection of his Son, our Divine Redeemer—a testimony preserved for the Church in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which were composed by holy men, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Affirming now our belief that those who thus hold 'one faith, one Lord one baptism,' together constitute the one catholic Church, the several households of which, though called by different names, are the one body of Christ, and that these members of his body are sacredly bound to keep 'the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,' we declare that we will co-operate with all who hold these truths. With them we will carry the gospel into every part of this land, and with them we will go into all the world, and 'preach the gospel to every creature.' May He to whom 'all power is given in heaven and earth' fulfill the promise which is all our hope: 'Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the World.' Amen. ♦

DANGEROUS (cont. from page 1)

the day. These workshops related to the roles in which men are called to be Kingdom Men, including their home, work, church and world. How to Have a Daily Appointment with God, Daring to Disciple Your Family, Guard Your Home — Guard Your Heart, Millennial Men — Young Men Becoming Kingdom Men and The Marriage Adventure were some workshop titles. These local pastors and the Dangerous Man Day national team joined together to present the workshops. The day ended with a final message on "The Impact of Kingdom Men" along with 100 men offering songs of worship and praise to God, with the inspiring theme hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Dangerous Man Day provided a place where pastors joined forces in equipping their men to become Kingdom Men. Instead of being up in front, pastors could sit and talk with their men, creating life-on-life time. This is priceless in building relationships for disciple-making in the days to come. Often big events have limited long term life transformation. The strength of this event was having pastors as the lead men. Equipped by their small group times before Dangerous Man Day, they were already beginning life-on-life discipleship relationships with men in their churches. These same pastors would continue impacting their men with "next steps" after Dangerous Man Day.

The pastors' small group that sparked this event continues to meet. Together they strive to fulfill God's command to make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19–20). They praise God for making them a powerful team, marching to further the Kingdom of God. ♦



Men discuss application questions from a general session message

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND READERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome your contributions!

If you have comments on what you read here, please e-mail them to kenandjoy@bellsouth.net.

If you have other comments or articles you wish to contribute, including "Something to Think About," please send them to the same e-mail address.

WORLD OUTREACH

Resurrection Power

by Wes Blood

(Wes Blood is a CCCC missionary working with international students with a ministry called "Wellspring." The article to the right is taken from a recent newsletter, and indicates an effective ministry that could also be used by churches near other universities with many international students.)

...that you may know... what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places... (Ephesians 1:18b-20)

Your church could host an international event. It is not as difficult as you would think, and it is exciting to have the world come into your fellowship hall. Let me tell you about a church in our city.

For the past three years, this church has held an Easter dinner for international students. These international students who come to the United States are very curious about the meaning of our holidays. As they see the Easter decorations go up, they witness a confusing mishmash of colored eggs, crosses, bunnies, and empty tombs. For someone who has no idea what this is all about, the images are very confusing.

So this church puts together a dinner and presentation all about Easter. We are very clear with students before we invite them, that they will hear about both the secular, and sacred meaning of Easter, so they are not surprised that this is a religious event. We have learned that we NEVER do "bait and switch" events, and we are always completely up-front with students when any event will have Christian content, so no one is ever caught off guard and uncomfortable.



This year the event was very personal. Each "host" family in the church brought their own table settings and decorations, and made their table just like their table at home. It was like each host invited the students into their own dining room. We had contact cards at the table so everyone could share contact information, and many of the families plan to invite their students to their church's Easter service, or even to their home some time in the future.

Attendance was amazing. The church had requested that we try to find 40 students who would like to come. I promoted the event mainly to new students who had come since October, and we ended up having 53 sign up! They mostly came from China, Nepal and several Middle Eastern countries. Not only did they hear all about the secular side of Easter (bunnies, eggs, candy, etc.), but they also heard all about the Holy Week, and all the events of Jesus' death and resurrection! We also gave each student a copy of the Jesus film in their native language.

RETURNING TO MINISTER

A couple years ago, we shared about a Chinese grad student who became a follower of Jesus and was baptized. He was so radically transformed that he was instrumental in leading another five or six students to know Jesus. He then decided to shift gears and go to seminary to better reach his people.

This young man, whom I will call "Zak," will be returning to our city later this summer. Please be in prayer about how God would best use us to encourage and support him, and use him to reach others. ♦

HEALTH NEWS



Safe Sleep for Baby

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

Our children are a precious gift from God and need our protection at all times, beginning at birth. Since infants are most at risk for suffocation while sleeping, having a safe sleep environment is very important.

Babies need to sleep alone in a safe crib, portable crib or bassinet. New crib guidelines were established in 2011. Drop sides are no longer considered safe. To be safe the mattress should be firm and tight fitting in the crib. A tight fitting sheet may cover the mattress. The crib should not have loose, missing or broken hardware or slats.

Always place baby to sleep on his or her back even when they are able to roll over. The crib should not have anything in the sleep area, including blankets, comforters, stuffed animals or other soft items. Keep baby's face uncovered during sleep. Sleepers are best for keeping your baby warm.

No one should smoke anything around the baby. Keep the baby dressed in as much or as little clothing you are wearing to prevent them from becoming overheated. Remember, babies are not safe sleeping on a couch, pillow or other soft surface. Babies are not safe sleeping with adults, pets or other children. Adult beds are not safe for babies. After feeding your baby in your bed, you should place them into their crib. Babies always need a safe place to sleep.

When you have someone care for your baby outside of your home, be certain they have a crib or

safe portable crib in which your baby can sleep.

When your baby is awake, they need to have tummy time to strengthen their neck muscles. They need to have someone watching them while they are on their tummy. If your baby falls asleep on his or her tummy, place them on their back in a safe place. ♦

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

Blue Island, IL	Evangelical Community Church* Tom Mathisen
Robertsville, OH	Christ Memorial Church* Jonathan Arnold*

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church*
Peoria Heights, IL	Peoria Heights Congregational Church* (<i>Youth Pastor</i>)
Gardner, MA	Mission St. Congregational Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Otsego, MI	First Congregational Church of Otsego *
Cook, MN	Ashawa Chapel* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Seabrook, NH	Rand Memorial Church*
Inwood, NY	Community Bible Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Scotia, NY	East Glenville Community Church*
Sardis, OH	St. Paul's Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Alexandria, PA	Christ Reformed Church*
Reynoldsville, PA	Paradise Community Church (UCC)
Warren, PA	Good News Community Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Woxall, PA	Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church (Independent)
Orwell, VT	First Congregational Church (Independent) (<i>Part-time</i>)
Hillsboro, WI	First Congregational Church*

* = Conference member
 + = In process

The 65th Annual Family Conference

July 22-25, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel— Riverfront

St. Paul, MN

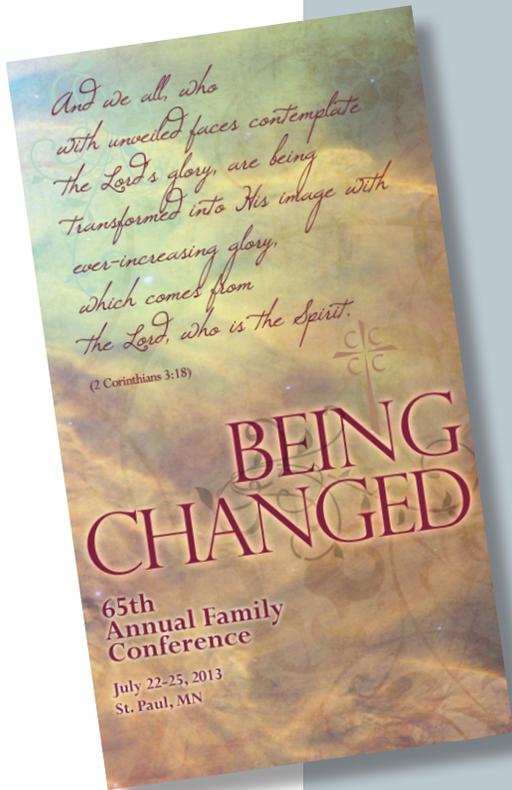
Online Registration NOW OPEN

at www.cccusa.com

Seminars Announced

See page 5 inside for more details!

**Watch for online seminar registration coming soon!
Check out the great selection and sign-up in advance for the
ones you want to attend!**



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55042

