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AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Wisconsin Features Inner-City Church Joining CCCC

by Pastor Keith Hunholz, *Wisconsin Area Representative*

The Wisconsin Fellowship of the CCCC has been growing this past year, in part through the involvement of five of our churches in Church Development, helping each church strengthen their ministries and become more effective in reaching their communities for Christ. We are also growing, however, as we welcome Pilgrim Congregational Church, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, into the CCCC at this year's Annual Family Conference. Valuing their city and celebrating their diversity, the church describes itself as a small congregation of believers bound together by sharing in a big God.

Pilgrim Church has become an inner-city church located in the Uptown Neighborhood of Milwaukee. This community has transitioned over the past 30 years from white middle class to 60% black. While a number of congregations in the central city have fled to the suburbs, the leaders of Pilgrim voted in the 1990s to stay put. Since Pastors Chris and Bery Bryan came in 2001, the church has also transitioned to become more reflective of the neighborhood. They are a church of about 100 people seek-

ing to understand and meld cultural diversities. Their worship style is a blend of traditional Congregational hymns and liturgies with a strong contemporary flavor, attracting about three visitors a week. The core of long-time members is strong and faithful, and there are signs of emerging new black leaders.

The church houses a K-8 choice school of about 150 students, and many are also participants in the life of the church, which includes a children's and youth (predominantly black) ministry. They are also experimenting with a small-group-oriented ministry as well. They also support missionaries from Myanmar, Laos, and India who have been with them recently, keeping them looking outward. The fellowship has been praying about the glass ceiling of 120 that they haven't been able to break through, but are one of the churches presently involved in Church Development, and are hopeful that the Lifeflow process will help them continue to grow.

Pastor Chris has become involved in our pastors' gatherings, and we look forward to working and sharing together in ministry in the coming years. ♦



Pilgrim Church Family

CM COMMENTS

Encouraging Signs

Ron Hamilton, *Conference Minister*



There are many encouraging signs in the life and ministry of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference as we celebrate our 65th anniversary this summer. I have the privilege of representing the Conference in my travels and witnessing the vitality of the ministry of many of our pastors and churches. I also have the opportunity to work closely with the leadership of the Conference and continually see God at work in our fellowship. Please celebrate with me and join me in praying for the CCCC as we observe the movement of the Spirit in our midst...

- The ministry of our churches is growing and developing a deeper commitment to the making of disciples. Our pastors are bold in their preaching of Scripture and many of our churches are very effective in reaching their communities with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The focus of the ministry is changing toward the evangelization and development of newborn believers.
- Our pastors are encouraged with the development of new opportunities for fellowship, training and mentoring. Many of our pastors meet with others on a monthly or quarterly basis for prayer, learning and mutual support. We are stronger as a fellowship because our leaders are growing stronger each day.
- The mission of the Conference is clear as we focus on our Seven Guiding Values. We are dedicated to effective ministry in this

generation while we continue to promote the values of biblical Congregationalism. Vision is growing as the CCCC reaches into the future strengthened by increased prayer and devotion to Christ.

- The leadership of the CCCC is united and fully devoted to our mission. The ministerial staff of the Conference is enthusiastically involved in ministry and regularly meets for times of prayer and mutual care. The executive officers and members of the Board of Directors have a clear vision for the CCCC and meet regularly to oversee our ministry.
- The financial picture of the Conference is good with increased giving and stronger oversight of our resources. The membership of the CCCC has responded to the vision of the comprehensive campaign in a significant way. The Board of Directors has improved our financial processes with stronger policies and planning. All of this happened when we were coming out of a time of financial stress due to the recession.

Let's join together in praising the Lord for his faithfulness to the CCCC in the past 65 years and prayerfully trust God for his leadership in the coming days. ♦

NE REGIONAL NEWS

Total Forgiveness

Terry Shanahan, NE Regional Minister

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 6:14–15

Some of our churches are experiencing a season of healing, renewal and joy. I have been privileged to visit those churches who are celebrating what God has done and is doing in their midst. In each of those situations, you don't have to look very far back in their history to see that peace and joy were not always the case. These churches have made a decision to deal with their differences and live in peace with one another.

Conflict is not a rare thing in the Christian community. One thing I have learned is that we Christians often do no better than the world when it comes to living peacefully together. James 4:1–2 says “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it...” In the wake of our fighting for what we want, people get hurt, and in turn, hurting people hurt others.

To address this the CCCC has identified that one of our guiding values is to create “a culture of peacemaking and reconciliation.” To that end, we have held peacemaking seminars across the country where many have been trained in Biblical peacemaking. As of January of this year we have called Lenn Zeller as our Director of Conference Care and we are being blessed by his gifting in this area.

A recent blessing we have had in New Hampshire is for pastor and author R.T. Kendall to come for

an all-day seminar, where he taught from his book, Total Forgiveness. Billed as a pastor's day off, pastors were encouraged to come, bring their spouses and experience fellowship, food and great teaching. Many New Hampshire CCCC pastors were there, and we had a wonderful time engaging with one another. The teaching by R.T. Kendall and the exposure to his work on forgiveness, based on his own experiences of having to forgive was convicting to say the least. I was compelled to examine my own heart, as he gave us the following checklist to see if we had totally forgiven others.



If I have totally forgiven another

- I will tell no one what someone has done to me.
- I will not let that person be afraid of me because I will keep no record of wrongs.
- I will not make them feel guilt or shame them in any way.
- I will let them save face and not rub their noses in it.
- I will protect them from their darkest secret.
- I will have to continue to forgive, as total forgiveness is a life sentence.
- Total forgiveness is when you bless the person who has wronged you.

I think with some pride I have thought of myself as a fairly forgiving person. However as I was confronted with this list, I was convicted, and I have had to search my heart to forgive as Jesus has forgiven me: **TOTALLY.**◆

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Imitation: A Missing Essential

by John Kimball, CCCC Director of Church Development



Have you ever made a recipe, perhaps for your favorite cookies, and accidentally left out one ingredient? How'd that go? Truth is, forgetting one simple ingredient can turn a whole delicious recipe into a tasteless hockey puck. It's the same with things in your spiritual life. The Master Chef has designed things to come together in a specific way for a deliciously fruitful walk with Christ. If any key ingredient is missing, then things assuredly will not turn out as hoped.

When it comes to the essential process of making disciples, I have found that there is nearly always one "ingredient" that is consistently missing: imitation. Evangelical churches are pretty good at providing biblically sound information for those they are discipling and equipping. Here in the United States, we have *oodles* (that's an important theological term) of wonderful materials and resources for teaching people about Christ and the Christian life. However, it is hard to find Christians who are willing to sacrifice the time needed to actually take a disciple by the hand, imitating those truths in a way that makes application and bears fruit.

In his classic study, *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby does an excellent job of showing how Jesus consistently imitated his Father. *"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does*

the Son also does" (John 5:19). This was a vital key to Jesus' life of obedience and power. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, showing them the full extent of his love, he taught them the lesson on imitation as well (John 13:1-17). *"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"* (vv. 13-15). In fact, Jesus spent the lion's share of his time exemplifying a life of faithful obedience in all things for his own disciples to emulate. Finally, Paul continues the theme throughout his life and ministry, teaching his students *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"* (1 Corinthians 11:1; see also 1 Corinthians 4:16-17; Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7,9).

If we are not consistently inviting people into a relationship where they can grow not only in knowledge, but in literally imitating our faithful walk with the Savior for their own relationship with and fruit for Christ, we are only teaching not discipling. Imitation in this context is not a "good idea," but a mandatory ingredient in Jesus' recipe to make disciples. How are you doing? Who is in your life by special invitation to learn from your example? What are they imitating? Jesus is watching. ♦



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Love your Mormon Friends

Mark Blair is a CCCC minister serving in Beijing, China. Here he shares something to think about concerning reaching Mormons for Christ

My friend has become “Mormon — for Jesus.” Now a welcome and popular teacher in LDS gatherings, he’s seen many Mormons follow the real, saving, Jesus. He faithfully presents evangelical truth, using the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He created a basic Gospel website for Mormons: <http://four-pillars-of-the-gospel.org/>

He suggests other amazing resources for those who love Mormons, to learn how to reach out to those in the LDS: *I Love Mormons — A New Way to Share Christ with Latter-Day Saints* by David L. Rowe. A good book written by a Mormon professor at BYU, after he did research and determined that a person is saved by grace and not works, is *Grace Works* by Dr. Robert L Millet (Deseret Books — the LDS Publishing house). I really enjoyed watching the DVD series “Transitions” — the best thing out there for Mormons leaving Mormonism.

<http://www.ldstransitions.com/> ♦

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS YEAR’S MESSAGES AVAILABLE

So you weren’t able to attend this year’s RCF (Reformed Congregational Fellowship) Pastors’ Conference? Not to worry! All six presentations, papers and audio files, are available at www.reformedcongregational.org.

Next year’s gathering will again be at the Wonderland Conference Center in Sharon, MA, and the dates are March 25-27, 2014. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there.

Your fellow servants,

Paul Wanamaker and Kirk van der Swaagh ♦

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

Scotia, NY E Glenville Community Church*
Jim Smith

Woxall, PA Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church (Independent)
John Fanella*

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

LaMoille, IL First Congregational Church*

Peoria Heights, IL Peoria Heights Congregational Church* (*Youth Pastor*)

Seward, IL Seward Congregational Church*

Gardner, MA Mission St. Congregational Church* (*Part-time*)

Haverhill, MA West Congregational Church* (*Worship Pastor*)

Otsego, MI First Congregational Church of Otsego *

Aurora, MN Palo Congregational Church*

Cook, MN Ashawa Chapel* (*Part-time*)

Mitchell, NE Federated Church*

Scottsbluff, NE Emmanuel Congregational Church*

Seabrook, NH Rand Memorial Church*

Inwood, NY Community Bible Church* (*Part-time*)

Sardis, OH St. Paul’s Church* (*Part-time*)

Reynoldsville, PA Paradise Community Church (UCC)

Warren, PA Good News Community Church* (*Part-time*)

Orwell, VT First Congregational Church (Independent) (*Part-time*)

Hillsboro, WI First Congregational Church*

* = Conference member

+ = In process

NEWS FROM MICRONESIA

CCCC Board Member Teaches in Micronesia

by **Max Vague**,
Director of Morning Star Institute

“When are you coming back?” was a question asked by pastors, wives and church leaders during a May trip to Logan Memorial Church in Chuuk. This is an important ministry to them, as there are no Bible colleges or seminaries in Micronesia.

Rev. Alvin Helms, senior pastor of Carlsbad Community Church in California and member of the CCCC Board of Directors, recently traveled to Chuuk, Micronesia with Morning Star Institute director Max Vague to teach for two weeks in the Gospel of Matthew. They both had the opportunity to preach on Sundays, and Alvin shared in chapel at Mizpah Christian High School.

Twenty-six students attended the classes, eager to learn and then teach others the Word of God. They



are reaching out to other communities and islands with the wonderful blessing of seeing seventeen high school students confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior on the outer island of Ulul (pronounced Onoun) on Easter Sunday. The island is a 24-hour ride in a small passenger ship outside of the Truk Lagoon, away from the main island of Weno. There are three other islands asking for someone to come and teach them the Bible. Pray that they will soon be reached.

This is one of two important ministries of the Micronesia Ministry Committee of the CCCC. The other is Mizpah Christian High School, which depends on our financial support for its existence. We ask for your prayers and support for both of these ministries requested earnestly by the people of Micronesia, and especially of islands of Chuuk.

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes. (2 Thessalonians 3:1, NLT) ♦

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.

EMMINENT CHRISTIANS

Lemuel Haynes, Black Puritan and Patriot

by Alwyn York, *Conference Historian*

Lemuel Haynes was born under about the most unfavorable circumstances imaginable. He was an illegitimate child of mixed race, abandoned by his own parents. But by the grace of God and through his own intelligence and ability he went on to have a highly successful career as a Congregational minister. He is believed to be the first African-American ordained by a mainstream Protestant denomination in the United States.

Haynes was born in 1753 in West Hartford, Connecticut, the son of an unknown black man and a “white woman of respectable ancestry.” His mother abandoned him soon after his birth, and refused to see or visit him as he was growing up. At the age of five months he was carried to the home of Deacon David Rose in Granville, Connecticut, where he was bound as an indentured servant until the age of twenty-one.

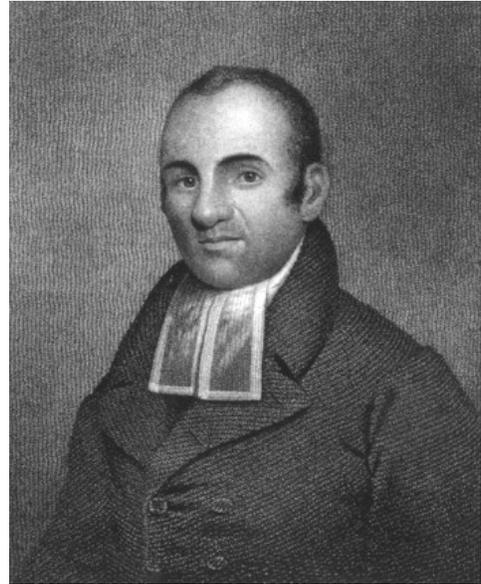
In the case of Lemuel Haynes the normally inhumane system of indentured servitude turned into an inestimable blessing. From the beginning the Rose family treated Haynes more as a son than a servant. Mrs. Rose became like a mother to him. In fact, she used to tell the neighbors that she loved Lemuel more than her own children. The Rose family was deeply spiritual, so young Lemuel grew up in an intensely religious environment where daily prayer was offered, the Sabbath was sanctified, and the evening before the Sabbath was devoted to the religious instruction of the household.

He attended the district school with the other children of the area and showed a great aptitude for

learning. He did not have access to very many books, but he made the most of those that were available to him. He intensely studied the Bible as well as Isaac Watts’ psalms and hymns and the writings of English Congregationalist Philip Doddridge. His conversion came around the age of twenty. He was alarmed by an appearance of the Aurora Borealis in the night sky, which he took as a sign of the coming Day of Judgment, and that led him to seek peace with God.

Haynes was intensely patriotic and fought in the American Revolution. When his indenture ended in 1774, he enlisted in the local militia as a Minuteman. In 1775 he marched with his militia company to Roxbury, Massachusetts following the battles of Lexington and Concord. In 1776 he went with his unit to occupy the recently captured Fort Ticonderoga. He contracted typhus in November 1776 and was relieved of duty. As a result of his military service he developed a deep fondness for George Washington and strong allegiance to the Federalist Party.

After his military service, Haynes returned to the home of Deacon Rose and his family, where he continued with the family’s religious practices. They customarily had someone read a sermon on Saturday evenings as they prepared for the Sabbath. One evening Haynes read a manuscript he had prepared on John 3:3 (“You must be born again”). Deacon Rose asked if it was a sermon of George Whitefield or Samuel Davies or Isaac Watts. Haynes sheepishly admitted that he had written it himself. From that point, the family encouraged him to prepare for



HAYES (*cont. from page 7*)

the ministry. He turned down an opportunity to attend Dartmouth College, and instead studied privately with ministers Daniel Farrand and William Bradford.

Haynes was licensed to preach on November 29, 1780, and five years later was ordained by the Litchfield County (Connecticut) Association of Ministers. He began his ministerial service as a founding member and supply pastor to a church in his hometown of Middle Granville. While he was serving that church a young white schoolteacher named Elizabeth Babbitt came to him with concerns about her spiritual condition. Haynes eventually became not just her spiritual counselor but her husband. They were married in 1783 and had ten children. Contrary to what we would expect, this inter-racial marriage did not seem to have been a source of scandal or any special concern.

After his ordination, Haynes served a church in Torrington, Connecticut for two years. From there he was called to a pastorate in Rutland, Vermont that was to last for thirty years. Vermont proved to be a challenging but fruitful field of service for Haynes. It was frontier territory where many new and unorthodox ways of thinking were competing with biblical Christianity. There was extensive circulation of Enlightenment thinking and materialistic sentiment. The skeptical writings of Thomas Paine were popular. Heretical forms of Christianity were also emerging. Lemuel Haynes emerged as a vigorous defender of biblical orthodoxy. One of his most famous published works was a satirical response to the preaching of Universalist leader Hosea Ballou. Middlebury College awarded Haynes an honorary Master of Arts in 1804, the first honorary degree bestowed upon an African American.

His long pastorate in Rutland ended in 1818. Although there is some speculation that racism may have played a part, the outward cause was his political views. He was an ardent supporter of the Federalist Party, and he apparently became more outspoken about his political opinions than was wise.

After leaving Rutland he served two more churches, first in Manchester, Vermont and then in South Granville, New York. His home in South Granville, where he lived for eleven years, is now a National Historic Landmark. He died in 1833 at the age of eighty.

There has been a revival of interest in Lemuel Haynes in recent years because of his status as an early African American minister. In addition to his theological writings, he also wrote about the injustice of slavery. He wrote, "Liberty is equally as precious to a black man, as to a white one, and bondage as equally as intolerable to the one as it is to the other." The basic source of information on Haynes is *Sketches of the Life and Character of the Rev. Lemuel Haynes*, published by his friend Timothy Mather Cooley in 1837. (The full text is available on Google books.) Recent studies are *Black Puritan, Black Republican: The Life and Thought of Lemuel Haynes* by John Saillant (2003) and *Black Preacher to White America: The Collected Writings of Lemuel Haynes* by Richard Newman (1990).

A PERSONAL NOTE:

This will be my last article as Conference Historian. Because of a change in my professional situation, I have found it necessary to step down from this position. It has been a joy to be able to tell the stories of some great Congregationalists who have been nearly forgotten today. There are great riches to be discovered in our Congregational history. I hope that I may have inspired others to do their own exploration.



HEALTH NEWS

Balancing Through Life

Betty Mitchell RN BSN,

Parish Nurse, Emmanuel Bethel Church, Royal Oak, MI



Maintaining our highest level of functional health is as important as maintaining cardiovascular health throughout our lives. There are many risks associated with falls, but improving your strength and balance through easy physical activity is one of the best ways to stay upright.

Loss of balance is the number one cause of falls in adults over 65. Many of these falls result in an injury severe enough to require hospitalization.

Having good balance helps us maintain agility and avoid injuries throughout life. Proper balance will help you maintain your independence as you improve your coordination and reduce your risk for a fall.

Controlling your posture assists in maintaining your balance. Your brain receives messages from your eyes, your ears and your muscles and joints that assist you in making a plan of motion to keep you in an upright position.

Good muscle tone and adequate flexibility are needed to prevent a fall from occurring. It becomes more im-

portant to keep physically active as you age to keep muscles strong and help keep you upright.

Gentle exercise is an excellent way to maintain muscle tone and increase stamina, strength and flexibility. The only equipment you need to begin would be a chair and a can of soup as your weight to lift. Before beginning any exercise program it is wise to check with your doctor.

You can check your own balance by standing on one leg for 30 seconds. If you are able to stand for less than 10 seconds your balance is impaired. Walking heel to toe, forward and backward, is another way to check your balance and coordination.

Click [here](http://www.heart.org/heartorg/conditions) for many exercises you can do at home to improve your balance and strengthen your muscles. (www.heart.org/heartorg/conditions) However, they need to be done at least two days a week. You should be able to notice improvement within a few weeks. If

you experience any discomfort, discontinue that particular exercise. ♦

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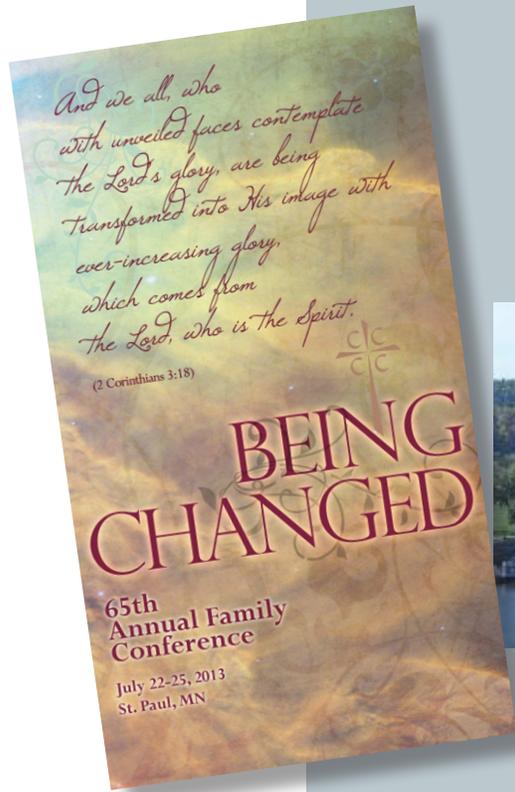
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