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CONSERVATIVE
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CONFERENCE

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AROUND THE CONFERENCE

God Is Working in the Heartland

By **Steve Wills**, CCCC Area Representative for Indiana and Western Ohio

As we look over the Indiana and Western Ohio Area of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, we are reminded of Galatians 3:26–28, *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

It was three years ago when Steve Gettinger called Steve Wills and asked him to be the area representative for Indiana and Western Ohio. And after prayerful consideration, Pastor Wills accepted this position. In his 13th year as pastor of St. Peters Church in New Bremen, Ohio, Steve considers it an honor to serve the churches and pastors of his area.

We have seven active churches in our area and enjoy gathering together twice a year. Our fellowship is centered on “what is happening” and “how we can pray.” We support and care for one another through sharing of concerns and prayer. We also enjoy the importance of being connected. Jim Futell, a pastor at Fairhaven Church in Centerville, gives this example of how important our fellowship is: “One very positive thing that came out of our CCCC regional gathering here on October 7 was the opportunity for two seminary students who go to the same school to meet and talk. John Turner from my church met C.J. Buskirk, pastor at Sulphur Springs Christian, and talked about Cincinnati Bible Seminary, and were able to share some important information together. That is one reason why regional gatherings are valuable.”

An interesting fact about the Indiana and Western Ohio Area is although we only have seven active churches, we have over thirty active licensed and ordained clergy. Many of these clergy work in parachurch organizations. Matt Mascioli, who serves as



St Peters Church, New Bremen, Ohio

a licensed chaplain with the CCCC, is involved in re-starting a homeless shelter that has been closed for over two years. The group has purchased a building, obtained 501(c)(3) status, actively fund raises, and will soon hire an executive director. The organization, Beyond Homeless Inc., aims to open its doors in January 2014. Matt will serve as Liaison for Faith-Based and Community Involvement with BHI (very similar to chaplaincy roles he has had at other homeless shelters).

CM COMMENTS

Get to Know John and Kathryn Kimball

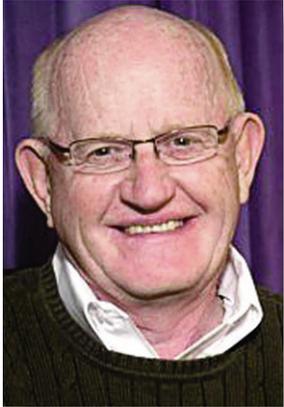
Ron Hamilton, *Conference Minister*

Please allow me to introduce the Kimballs to you in a new role beginning in 2014. John and Kathryn Kimball will be relocating to Orlando, Florida in August, 2014 to plant a new church, Palmwood Church, affiliated with the CCCC. This exciting development is further evidence that God is at work in our Conference in special ways in these days.

In the late summer of 2012, John began to sense the leading of the Holy Spirit toward church planting during his daily prayer time. He felt it odd, because he never considered himself a “pioneering” personality; however, the Spirit did not relent, and after several weeks of this impression John started talking with people about it. During the same time, the CCCC Board of Directors began considering possible changes to the Conference’s ministry structures to better facilitate the three priorities of Conference Care, Church Development and Church Multiplication. There is a growing interest in decentralization, which would intentionally focus on regional ministry to be more effective and fruitful for Christ’s kingdom. These things worked together to confirm with John and Kathryn what the Lord had been whispering for a very long time. The Kimballs envision being a part of an effort to bring the CCCC to the Southeast, and are called by the Lord to do this organically by planting a church and allowing the movement to grow out from there.

The proposal for the church plant has been approved by the Northstar Center for Church Multiplication and the CCCC Church Multiplication Committee. The Kimballs’ home church, the Woodbury Community Church in Minnesota, has agreed to assist in this project by allowing families from the church to join in this project. There are currently two families from the church who will relocate with the Kimballs to help start this church. Another family from North Carolina has discerned that God has called them to join the core group. John and Kathryn are also in dialogue with other friends and ministry acquaintances to join this growing core group. We recognize that there may be others from the CCCC family who will sense a call to participate in this church-planting ministry.

Please join me in praying for the Kimballs as they prepare for this great adventure. Any support for the Palmwood Church project can be directed through the CCCC office. ♦



NE REGIONAL NEWS

Content in All Circumstances

Terry Shanahan, NE Regional Minister

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. Philippians 4:12

One of the great books of all time has to be one by children's author, Judith Viorst called *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. I recently found a copy at a yard sale for 25 cents and got reacquainted with the story. Admittedly this is not a theological treatise, and the plot is very thin, but it carries with it a timeless message. If you are unfamiliar with the story, it is about a boy named Alexander, who through various circumstances of life continually declares at each of life's disappointing events that he is having "A terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day." At certain intervals in the book, Alexander declares that he thinks he will move to Australia. As this intriguing, fast-moving story comes to a close, and Alexander reflects on the day, he concludes that it indeed has been "A terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day." And the book ends when he says, "My Mom says, some days are like that, even in Australia."

We can relate to Alexander. Some days are just like that. All of us at times have been buffeted by life's circumstances. There are days that we could declare to be terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days, if it were not for our faith in a God who promises that He is always with us. Life is difficult and challenging. The Bible bears this out. As the Israelites turned on Moses during the journey to the promise land, I am sure there were days that Moses felt were not that stellar. As the Apostle Paul suffered beatings, shipwrecks, and suffering for the cause of Christ, we can only imagine the agony and hardship he experienced.

Yet for an individual devoted to the person of Jesus Christ, each day is a gift from Him. As a disciple of the Lord, we don't allow our circumstances to determine the quality of our lives. Rather than let our well-being depend on our circumstances and using our energy to try to control the world, we connect our joy to His precious promises including the following:

Joshua 1:5 *No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Or Philippians 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

And Romans 8:38–39 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Poor Alexander — in his immaturity and lack of faith he only feels happy when things go well, and sad and frustrated when they don't. We, however, know that it is possible to be content in all circumstances, as the Apostle Paul declares in Philippians 4:12 *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.* ♦



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

We're Not Planting a Church

By John Kimball, *CCCC Director of Church Development*



At first glance, this title might appear to be a contradiction to Ron's lead article in this issue, but it's not. Some may think that I have decided to abandon my passion for a revitalized American Church, but that would be incorrect. You see, our response to God's beckoning us to Central Florida is both consistent with my ongoing passion for Church Development and is also an expression of the very things we teach in our *LifeFlow* Process.

The truth is, a new church (or perhaps even a movement of churches) is the expected result of our labors northeast of Orlando; however, that is not our primary focus. We are not going there to plant a church — we are going there to make disciples! And we know that, as the number of healthy disciples the Lord raises up through us multiplies, a church will be born.

Churches and pastors working through the CCCC Church Development Process understand that the primary emphasis is to make healthy, reproducing, Christ-centered disciples. We strive to help people grow deep in Jesus, more fully devoted to Him, to His people and to His mission. This is precisely what we will be doing in Florida. Our team will build discipling relationships among the 112,000 souls in our ministry area that are either unchurched or "de-churched." You see, a large percentage of these

precious people have left the church disillusioned, wounded and angry. They have encountered way too many congregations that are stagnant, dysfunctional, overly political or even abusive. The opportunity for us to work with the Father to birth something with healthy "DNA" from the beginning is so exciting! And the thought that many people, who have been estranged from Jesus, as well as those who have never met Him, might find something real, sacred and redemptive through this new work is nothing short of awesome! Our "prime directive" is to make disciples.

Church planting has been at the heart of the CCCC for two decades. It's not only one of our three main emphases as a Conference, but it is also one of the primary outcomes we seek from successful Church Development. Healthy churches multiply by making disciples.

Kathryn and I are so thrilled to be taking on this new adventure. We are joined by a growing number of team members — nearly 20 at the writing of this article. We appreciate your prayers for us as we prepare for the work, as well as raise intercessory and financial support. Wondrous things are on the horizon for the CCCC — and for Central Florida! ♦

WORLD OUTREACH

The Blessings of God Continue

The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice... Isaiah 30

This last year has carried great sorrow for the Master's children in Egypt, in Syria, and East Africa. The latest is the horrific civil war in recent weeks in South Sudan. We cry out to the Father not only for his servants but for all those tumbling into eternity without knowing Him.

Our yearly overview seems so unimportant.

While we cry, and while we pray, we will speak of the Father's goodness and his mercies to us. Our children are high on that list!

Jennifer and Mark Dougan still serve the Savior and Galilee Baptist Church (now called "Living Faith") as youth and family pastor. Jennifer writes and speaks, with a burden on her heart for women and families [jenniferdougan.blogspot.com]. Their John Mark started at Northwestern College (now the University of Northwestern at St. Paul, Minnesota) in the fall. Morgan Noelle is 15, loves art and Mandarin Chinese. Daniel is 5.

Jeremy continues in Washington at the Tacoma Country Club and Golf Course as the head gardener, with bouldering, Frisbee golf, tennis and volleyball as hobbies.

Julianne and Joel Vanderaa had their second child this year, Norah Rose, born February 4. Elena Massa is over 3, leaving her French in her brain and choosing to speak mostly English now. Joel continues in engineering and Julianne in two days at Bible Study Fellowship each week. They are part of a church plant in South Minneapolis for the second year called New City of Nations. We are very proud of all of our children and their children.

Our focus has been on the Somali people, building friendships and loving them here in Minneapo-

lis, and praying for those in East Africa who suffer and are sometimes killed for their faith. One man said, "Call us the victorious church." They depend on God for everything; they give of themselves and their possessions; they bathe all they do in prayer — even children on their knees with tears, even in good times; they know the joy of close fellowship. They don't pray that the persecution ends but that they will remain faithful.*

"So what else are you doing?"

We continue with WEC International. Bruce was invited to participate and do some teaching in a team trip to a newer field, the Dominican Republic and Haiti — with a focus on training Spanish-speaking believers to go

as workers into the harvest fields — and continues to be involved in that outreach as a consultant and teacher. He has continued this last year as a police chaplain, which suits him well and keeps him out in the community.

Carolyn shares, "With the neighborhood life around us, and our lives within, I feel the weight of the 'fall.' Every pain works deep in me, to 'teach me wisdom in the inmost place,' (Psalm 51), as I bend to the Holy One, my Father."

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! (Revelation 5)

Bruce and Carolyn Pinke

Come and see us! ♦

*Victorious church notes
from Dr. Pat with www.newsservice2000.com

Bruce Pinke is an ordained minister under the CCCC. He and his wife Carolyn serve God with WEC International. The following is from their annual report at the end of 2013.



Bruce and Carolyn Pinke

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PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Partnership in the Body of Christ

On South 12th Ave in Bloomington, MN, not far from the airport and the Mall of America is a modest business park. The east end of the building in the Airport Business Park is home to **NextStep Resources**, owned by Aaron Uram and operated by him and his staff. Formerly associated with the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), NextStep became a separate entity after reorganization in that denomination.

Several years ago relationships developed between Aaron at NextStep and former CCCC conference ministers, Cliff Christensen and Steve Gammon. As changes were implemented in the CCCC office, the relationship with NextStep grew and a partnership was formed that gradually replaced the functions of Foresee Publications.

A Christian resource ministry, NextStep provides churches and individuals all over the country with church supplies, Sunday School and VBS curriculum, Bible study resources and a wide variety of Christian books and media.

Many CCCC churches and members already take advantage of NextStep's services. Aaron reported in July 2013 from the NextStep table at the CCCC Family Conference, that CCCC members were the 3rd largest group visiting his website. (The larger two groups were EFCA affiliations.)

NextStep's primary purpose is to provide materials priced to help local churches carry out their ministries. They offer 20 to 25% discounts on most items and 5-10% discounts on curriculum. NextStep also posts a specific CCCC page on their site. To access this page go to nsresources.com, click on "Denominational Resources" in the "Browse Store" box on the left side of the page, and then choose "CCCC." There you will find resources specifically designed and recommended for members of the CCCC.

Nowadays, you don't have to get to Bloomington to use NextStep's services. You can take advantage of this wonderful relationship that has been built in the Body of Christ by visiting their website or giving them a call. *See what they can help you with today!* ♦



7890 12 Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55425
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nsresources.com

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Our Personal and Collective Responses to God

By the Rev. Mark R. Galloway, *Superintendent of Church of The Apostles (Evangelical Anglican), Coventry, Rhode Island*

The Church of The Apostles, Coventry, Rhode Island, has been a member of the CCCC since 2008. What a joy it has been for our congregation to belong to a Conference that fosters an environment of unity and liberty. It has been a pleasure for us to engage with our sister congregations in “the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). Because every local church of the CCCC is an expression of the whole Body, the Church of The Apostles has been committed to vigilance in our relationship to the Conference. We have upheld the doctrines and principles of the Conference, regularly attended regional meetings as well as the Annual Family Conference, have faithfully and sacrificially supported the Conference with our finances, and were very glad to participate in the Comprehensive Campaign.

Believing that our membership in the CCCC is not only a privilege but also involves responsibility, we have fulfilled “our fellowship, ministry and financial obligations to the Conference to the best of our ability by participation in national and regional activities, by contribution to the Conference budget, and by other means as time and resources present” (CCCC Code of Ethics for Churches).

In gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord; and believing that, to the glory of God, the task of the CCCC, and the entire church of Jesus Christ, is three-fold: the worship of God, the edification of the saints, and the evangelization of the world, we believe there is a

definite need among the congregationally governed churches of historic Biblical persuasion to live the gospel of mutual dependence.

As true stewards of God’s grace, all Christians (and the Congregations to which we belong), are called to recognize that our lives in Jesus are not independent from other saints, but rather are personal and collective responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole Body of Christ and the world (cf. Romans 12:4–5, 2 Corinthians 8:13–14).

These are exciting times for the CCCC. There is a great sense of anticipation of God’s work in and through the ministry of our Conference. What an honor and joy it is to belong to a fellowship that truly desires to be “a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:27). ♦

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.

HEARTLAND (cont. from page 1)

Another example is Rev. David Bear. He is director of Overseas Council, a ministry that works for God's glory alongside healthy churches across the Majority World by partnering with seminaries and Bible institutes in about sixty countries. He encourages us to go to the Overseas Council website (www.overseas.org) to get an overview of the work he does as he serves the greater church worldwide.

We are reminded of our unity and diversity in the CCCC, as we continue to live out our faith in Christ Jesus in the Heartland of America. ♦

66th Annual Family Conference

JULY 21-24, 2014

"FOR EVERY GENERATION"

(PSALM 33:11)

Plan to bring your family and join us as we gather in the home of religious freedom in the United States. Rhode Island was the first colony to adopt freedom of religion in North America.

At our 66th annual conference, featured speakers will be Ed Stetzer and CCCC leaders. Important business issues may seem outweighed by the closeness of our loving fellowship with those we only see once a year. Meaningful worship and inspiring music will enable us to return home spiritually refreshed. ♦



CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational* (Associate Pastor)
LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church*
Cohasset, MA	Beechwood Congregational Church*
Douglas, MA	Second Congregational Church*
Haverhill, MA	West Congregational Church * (Worship Pastor)
Haverhill, MA	West Congregational Church * (Children's Pastor)
Cook, MN	Ashawa Chapel* (Part-time)
Norwood, MN	Church of Peace* (Part-time)
Berthold, ND	Berthold Baptist Church (ABC)
Scottsbluff, NE	Emmanuel Congregational Church*
Scottsbluff, NE	Plymouth Congregational Church*
Inwood, NY	Community Bible Church* (Part-time)
Beaver Springs, PA	Christ Church (EFCA)
Reynoldsville, PA	Paradise Community Church (UCC)
Warren, PA	Good News Community Church* (Part-time)
Orwell, VT	First Congregational Church (Independent) (Part-time)

* = Conference member

+ = In process

HEALTH NEWS

Pet Therapy

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



A few months ago, music therapy was discussed as a means of assisting some patients in the hospital and other settings for recovery from a variety of health-related problems.

Pet therapy is also becoming more prevalent in helping patients in the recovery process. People need and respond to touch to help nourish their mind and spirit. Animals provide a warm, soft way to feel touched. Touch from machines and other technology is not nearly as pleasant or helpful as that of a loving animal. The animals also provide a non-threatening way of communicating with family and staff members.

Well-trained and screened dogs are frequently used to help people recover from or better cope with health issues. Other trained animals, such as birds, cats or even horses may be useful as well in certain environments.

The term "Pet Therapy" includes: 1) animal-assisted therapy to aid in recovery from mental health disorders, heart and other health problems: 2) animal-assisted activity, another type of "Pet Therapy" which provides a more general purpose of comfort and enjoyment for people in a hospital or nursing facility environment.

Typically, animals will visit patients with their handler in patient rooms for about 10 to 15 minutes with the patients' permission. They are encouraged to pet

the dog, talk with the handler and reminisce about their own pets. After the pet therapy visit, most patients will feel uplifted, and may well find their pain, anxiety and fatigue are decreased.

Animals, whether for therapy or activity, provide a welcome distraction not only for the patient and their family, but to workers and other patients as well.

Family members often reap benefits when they see the patient feeling better after the visit and may feel less stressed themselves.

If you or a family member are in a health care setting you may want to inquire about pet therapy or pet activities available to you or your loved one. ♦

Source: www.mayoclinic.com/health; www.holisticonline.com/pets



66th Annual Family Conference“

JULY 21-24, 2014

“For Every Generation”

(Psalm 33:11)

CROWNE PLAZA - PROVIDENCE (WARWICK), RHODE ISLAND

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Registration Information
Coming this
Spring*



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