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## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

### Fields Ready for Harvest

by **Dave Randlett**, *Area Representative for New Hampshire*

For many years now, New Hampshire has consistently ranked among the five least-churched states in the nation. Ministering in the Granite State calls for having faith in Christ's promise that "the harvest is plentiful." (Luke 10:2)

Willing to labor in the fields of New Hampshire, and trusting in the promises of God's Word, Ben Henshaw accepted the call to be the new pastor at Rand Memorial Congregational Church in Seabrook. With his wife Jill and daughter Haven, Ben moved to Seabrook from Pennsylvania and began his ministry over Labor Day weekend last year. Since that time he has seen God working in Seabrook in very exciting ways.

Ben testifies, "We have seen the church growing significantly and people getting interested in God and wanting to enter into a deeper level of commitment to Christ." Prior to the Henshaws' coming to Seabrook, attendance for Sunday morning worship had dwindled to as few as fifteen people. Now there are forty to sixty gathering each week for fellowship and the preaching of the Word.

The church has long had a strong Sunday school program. In the past, however, parents would drop their kids off for Sunday school, but not stay for worship. This is changing, and Ben looks forward to expanding the youth program. He shares, "This summer we will be doing construction to join two of the Sunday School classrooms into a bigger room where we can have children's church during the worship service. We believe this will allow for families to more easily remain and check out the



service while their children are in children's church. We really want this to be a family-friendly place where both parents and their children can have the opportunity to hear from God."

Emphasizing this desire for the church to be a family-friendly place, the church promoted and sponsored a "Trunk or Treat" event last October to provide a safe environment for children to receive treats, and to hear a presentation of the Gospel using the carving of a pumpkin. This drew nearly 200 children to the church parking lot.

Children and parents are also getting together to pray for others, making prayer bracelets for those they are lifting up in prayer.

*FIELDS cont on pg 8*

## CM COMMENTS

## Honoring Generations Past

**Ron Hamilton**, *Conference Minister*



The theme for this year's annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island is "For Every Generation."

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart  
through all generations.*  
(Psalm 33:11)

This teaching calls us to celebrate God's faithfulness to those who place their faith in Him. It also reminds us that God has accomplished his plans through faithful people in generations past.

I have the privilege of personally knowing every one of my predecessors who served as Conference Minister for the CCCC. In addition to the names listed below, seven others served the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference as Executive Secretary or Missionary at Large. These were all godly men with a great passion for the ministry of our fellowship. Each of them made a special contribution to the growth and development of the CCCC.

### CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTERS

- 1973-1974 Rev. Willis E. Joiner
- 1974-1977 Rev. J. Bruce Ostien
- 1977-1981 Rev. Samuel T. Hemberger
- 1981-2003 Rev. Clifford R. Christensen
- 2003-2011 Rev. Steve Gammon

Willis Joiner was a dedicated pastor from Virginia who loved the CCCC and wanted to work toward its growth. I had many times of fellowship with Bruce Ostien, who was a ministry peer when I served as pastor in New Haven, Michigan. Sam and Anna Hemberger were hard-working servants of the Lord who made many sacrifices to help the Conference grow in challenging times. Cliff Christensen played a significant role in the development of church planting in the Upper Midwest and became a good friend and mentor when I was called to be the founding pastor of the Woodbury Community Church. I worked closely with Steve Gammon and have always appreciated his devotion to the Lord, His church and the CCCC.

I am humbled as I remember the faithful service of believing people from the generations that precede us. Please join me in thanking God for these faithful servants who laid a strong foundation for our Conference. I encourage you to take time to thank the people that you know who have faithfully served God is the ministry of your church. Also, thank God for the people who have passed on to be with Him in heaven.

The Lord has now entrusted us with the ministry for this generation. I pray that He will give us the strength and wisdom that is required to carry on the kingdom work in these critical and challenging days. ♦

## NE REGIONAL NEWS

# God... Gives Us Richly All Things to Enjoy

(I Timothy 6:17)

**Terry Shanahan, NE Regional Minister**

*Love the family of believers.* (1 Peter 2:17)

It is that time of year again: schools let out, Sunday school concludes for the summer, vacations are planned. The Lord shines His face upon the earth and all the world turns green and beautiful. We love summer, don't we? We love longer days, warm sunshine, possibilities of less toil and more play. Whatever your passion, it is better in the summer.

I love the beach and the lake and the river, and generally the water, however it is found. Here in New England we have a lot of water. In New Hampshire, where I live, we sit on the Atlantic Ocean and boast our 17 miles of coastline. But just eight miles north we have the rocky coastlines of Maine. And eight miles south we have the picturesque coastline of Massachusetts. And then Cape Cod, Rhode Island and Connecticut and so on down the coast. There is a joy in the feel of an ocean breeze on a hot summer day.

Doesn't that sound wonderful? Most years in July, I travel to an airport and fly far away from the coast and the ocean breezes to be with my CCCC family at the Annual Family Conference. That too is a joy,

loving the family of believers, worshipping together, praising God, sharing life with you all.

But great news. This year, you all can come and share my Ocean Breezes. The Annual Family Conference is right in my back yard, so to speak. We will meet as the family of believers from July 21–24. Our Hotel and Conference Center in Warwick, Rhode Island is just a few miles from the Atlantic Ocean. And while the hotel has a great pool, the Atlantic in Rhode Island in July gets all the way up to the 70s—sometimes. Can't you just smell the salt air and feel the goose-bumps?

So this year you can have it all. We can meet together as a CCCC family, and praise God, and worship Him and see old friends and make new ones, and share life with our brothers and sisters in Christ. AND you can come and share the ocean breezes of the Northeast.

We have been preparing a very special time for you this year. I pray to see many of you there. I hope that you will also stay and enjoy our beautiful New England coast, or the mountains, or the lakes regions, or Berkshires, or Boston, or the Red Sox, or the cape or the islands, or Newport mansions, or the Maine lobsters, or whale watchers, or the golf courses or the "chowdah," or the (insert your own list).

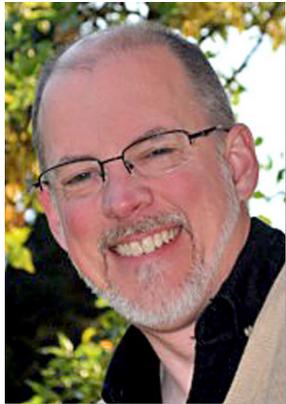
*See you in July.*



## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

## The Importance of “In Between”

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



I have just returned from a wonderful three days with some very important ministers: Interim Pastors. I was blessed to participate in the 2014 Interim Pastor Ministries Summit in the Waybright Center at Trinity International University. During that gathering I was again reminded about how critical is the time “in between” settled pastors for a local church.

Every local church gets comfortable and falls into routines. The problem is when those routines take on a life and importance of their own, rather than supporting the ever-changing ministry needs of the church’s community. We’ve all seen it: the church that loses touch with its own neighborhood with a growing inward focus, the downtown church where people now drive in from the suburbs, the aging church that cannot figure out how to reconnect with younger generations — when church structures and routines become rigid and unchangeable, they actually prevent ministry. And there is no better time to address those entrenched structures and routines than during the interim period.

Think about it: when a pastor resigns or retires, the church is in a period of change anyway. A well-trained interim can help the church evaluate everything in its life and ministry together, navigating through adjustments and changes to set the congregation up for a great and fruitful relationship with the next pastor. And

while the CCCC would recommend against working through our LifeFlow Church Development process during the interim period in most cases, there are some foundational components of that process that can be implemented. Assessments can be completed — and these can even help identify key characteristics which the search committee can look for in a new pastor.

To resist assessment and change in the time “in between” is to choose eventual obsolescence in some or most of the church’s ministry. And to forego interim ministry altogether during pastoral transition is a mistake. Interim ministry is a gift — accept it as such and don’t rush its valuable process. Some of the most important foundations for church and ministry development can take place in that short 12 to 18 months with a trained interim pastor.

For more information about interim ministry, contact our office at (651) 739-1474. ♦



## CONFERENCE CARE

## Who Really Knows Best?

By **Lenn Zeller**, (Volunteer) CCCC Director of Conference Care

Do you remember the old, old TV show, "Father Knows Best"? It actually ran on NBC Radio from 1949 to 1954, and then on television from 1954 to 1960. The show portrayed the life of a Midwestern, middle class family, and starred Robert Young (as insurance salesman Jim Anderson) and June Whitley (Jane Wyatt on the TV version) as his wife. On the radio program, the character of the father was far more sarcastic, autocratic and derisive, often calling his children names and putting them down. For the television show, Jim's character was softened to that of a thoughtful father who offered sage advice whenever one (or more) of his children had a problem.



In any case, the title itself became part of our proverbial language, at least back then. Father knows best... became part of our vernacular and was pretty much accepted as fact. Nowadays... not so much. Watch the TV shows of today and the father is much more likely to be portrayed as an incompetent, clueless oaf and the focus of much ridicule. My, how times have changed!

One thing has never changed, however... God is still the heavenly Father who knows best. His wisdom is

eternal, unsearchable, infinite, and universal. He is the source of all knowledge, wisdom and truth.

- Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His.
- He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them.
- He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.
- He reveals deep and hidden things;
- He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him. (Daniel 2: 20–22 )

God the heavenly Father knows best. Wisdom and power are His. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. God reveals the deep and hidden things. So those who wish to be wise and discerning must turn to God and seek His truth, in all things, in all of life.

This is true in our relationships, in our homes, in our places of work and in our churches. Many of the battles that erupt in our congregations result from ignoring God's wisdom and ways, and seeking our own. If we would just live together and treat one another the way He has commanded, we could avoid many of the conflicts that tear us apart. The New Testament epistles are replete with instructions concerning the fellowship of the saints in the body of Christ. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:1–21, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Peter 2:17, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 John 1:7, etc.). This is God's wisdom for how to live together in Christ. We depart from it to our own peril.

And then when we do stray from His path and fall into disputes and disunity, God offers His wisdom to show us how to deal with our differences properly and kindly, in a way that ultimately honors Him (Matthew



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

## Building the Kingdom

by Rick Chafee, *pastor of Amber Congregational Church, Marietta, New York*

Recently I had occasion to speak with a fellow who is from another area of the state about the church he is now attending. He spoke quite openly concerning his church's recent history. They had a minister who divorced his wife and married the church secretary. He was asked to leave. The next minister was a bit authoritarian and didn't stay long. Then followed one who insisted the church sell its parsonage and provide him with a housing allowance so he could buy his own place. This demand split the church with a good number leaving making it impossible for those left to provide that kind of housing stipend. As a result that minister left soon after. The present minister, thankfully, is doing a great job of restoring order, bringing peace, and attempting to get the church back on the track of building Christ's kingdom and not that of the minister or church member.

Acts 2 with its story of Pentecost and the miracle of speech which enabled the unbelieving listeners to hear *the wonders of God in our own tongues*. (Acts 2:11), reminds me of another miracle of speech which *confused their language so they did not understand each other*. (Genesis 11:7). These two accounts, both miracles of speech, both stories of kingdom building, produced opposing effects.

The story of the tower of Babel is all about self-interest. The project is to build a city with skyscrapers so high that they reach to the heavens. The desired result was *so that we might make a name for ourselves*. (Genesis 11:4). They wanted to construct a society that was based on human ability and technique with no regard for God. Catastrophe followed. God's miracle of speech was to confound their tongues so that they could not understand each other thus making it impossible for them to continue to build this grandiose kingdom. Instead they all scattered, confused and alienated.

In the Pentecost story the disciples are assembled as Jesus told them, awaiting the power to overcome their insecurities and to witness to his resurrection. The Holy Spirit comes upon them and they speak in languages that they had never learned. At that time the city of Jerusalem was full of visitors from countries around the world for it was a religious holiday for all the Jews. The miracle of

speech enabled these folk to hear and understand the message of the gospel in their native tongue. Far from confusing them and alienating them, it made it possible for those seeking God to discover his truth.

Admittedly, it can be argued that these are not miracles of speech but miracles of hearing, but practically it amounts to the same thing. What is critical is that those who speak are doing so not in order to toot their own horn or build their own kingdom, but rather their focus is on affirming the wonders of God. Christ is the king and it is his kingdom that is to be established. Whenever people lose sight of that their speech and message will be confusing, divisive, and counter-productive.

So here we are as a church family involved in the process of revitalization. We have spent hours in conversation. When we began meeting we did so because we were aware that our numbers were shrinking. We don't have as many as we used to attending Sunday Worship. Membership statistics are down; financial numbers are down. We realized that if we didn't figure out what and why we would become another church casualty. So we hired a consultant and started talking.

But the most important issue is whose kingdom are we interested in saving? Whose church is it anyway? If Christ is the head of the church then isn't the first priority for us to worship him, to affirm him, to proclaim him? Can we not trust God to preserve that which honors him?

So where is our focus? Are we like the fearful and bewildered folk whom Christ made into bold proclaimers of God's grace in Acts 2, or are we akin to the self-centered contributors with our own divisive agendas like those in Genesis 11? The results will probably reveal our focus and priority. Acts 2 ends, not with confusion but with the Lord *adding to their number those who are being saved*. (Acts 2:47) Whose kingdom are we building?

**See you in Worship.** ♦

## WORLD OUTREACH

# Reaching West Asia for Christ

by Eve K.

*“Hello! Are you well? How is your family? May you live! May your hands be nice. My heart is well because I see you.”*

The rough translation above of how my friends and I often greet each other in West Asia perhaps gives a glimpse of their culture of hospitality.

Working in West Asia with Wycliffe Bible Translators, my main job had been learning the language and culture so that I can assist the Scripture translation team in discovering factors in the culture which may encourage or discourage people from reading God’s Word and applying it to their lives.

Lord willing, I will be in the States, finishing up a Scripture Engagement study program, until this coming December. Provided that the area of West Asia is stable and safe enough, I pray I will be able to return there in January.

Classes for this semester finished on June 7 — a very busy week! Praise God, the final projects finished up quite well, I believe. My major paper, concerning use and perception of holy books on mobile devices in West Asia, I pray might be useful research for our Scripture translation team.

During the week, I also had the privilege of taking part in a Language Documentation workshop with fourteen people from eight different countries. Exciting and valuable!



On the center where I study, Wycliffe held an event for young people interested in serving long term. I got to share a devotional for the whole group and speak to a small group of women.

Friday and Saturday, four of us students led a Trauma Healing group for women who minister to homeless, refugees, prisoners, and survivors of abuse in Dallas, Texas. Monday of the following week, I had the joy of leading similar Arts in Trauma Healing seminar for a group in Pennsylvania. I would appreciate prayers for the people who took part in each of these exciting, potentially life-changing events. If you or someone you know may be interested in this training on how Scripture can help people heal from traumatic experiences, please contact me.

Until August 14, I hope to travel around Pennsylvania, New York, and New England areas, staying with family and visiting church friends/friend churches. I look forward to meeting or reconnecting with many of you at the upcoming CCCC Annual Family Conference! ♦

*Eve K. is a CCCC Commissioned Christian Worker, ministering in West Asia under Wycliffe Bible Translators. She is presently back in the States for further training.*

FIELDS cont from pg 1

As more people are coming to worship on Sunday mornings, and enjoying the joys of Christian fellowship, Ben has been delighted to see people new to the church make professions of faith and dedicate their lives to Christ. A service of baptism is being planned this summer, and nine people just completed a membership class, affirming their desire to unite with the church. So yes, here in the stony Granite State, God is changing hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. The fields indeed are white for harvest! ♦



FATHER cont from pg 5

18:15–18, 2 Corinthians 2:5–11, Galatians 6:1–5, 2 Timothy 2:24–26, etc.). But once again, we too often prefer to handle things our own way, and we end up fanning the flame of the conflict, causing more harm than good. Rather than forgive as God has forgiven us, we strike back in anger, seeking revenge. Rather than overlook the offense, we attack in retaliation or we withdraw from fellowship in self-protective defensiveness. Rather than approach the person who has offended us directly, seeking to heal and reconcile, we launch a campaign of gossip or find ways to publicly denounce and defend ourselves. In the process, the cause of Christ is hindered.

God the Father knows best, and has given us profound, divine guidance for how to live together in love and how to heal the wounds when we fail. How much better would our relationships be and how much stronger our witness if we just followed God's instructions and lived as He taught and modeled in Christ Jesus? ♦

## 66th Annual Family Conference

**JULY 21-24, 2014**

Providence (Warwick), Rhode Island

The time is coming near! If you hurry, you can still beat the **June 22 advance registration discount** deadline. To register online, go to [www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com).

Conference Theme: "For Every Generation" Psalm 33:11



**Ed Stetzer**, author, speaker, researcher, pastor, church planter, and Christian missiologist will be speaking and answering questions for us. Stetzer has planted, revitalized, and pastored churches, trained pastors and church planters on six continents, holds two masters degrees and two doctorates, and has written dozens of articles and books.

Stetzer currently serves as Visiting Professor of Research and Missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Visiting Research Professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has taught at many other colleges and seminaries. Stetzer is a contributing editor for *Christianity Today*, a columnist for *Outreach* magazine, and is frequently cited or interviewed in national news outlets such as USA Today and CNN.

## HEALTH NEWS

## Being Prepared

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



Losing your power or water supply can happen unexpectedly. It is wise to be prepared for such an occasion. You might have sufficient

staples on your shelves to use for a few days.

However, it is generally suggested that you store a two-week supply of nonperishable food even though it is unlikely you would be cut off from your food source for that long. Remember to include a manual can opener.

Store enough water for three days or up to a two-week supply for each member of your family, including enough for your pets. In addition to about 2 quarts of water per day per person to drink, remember to have water for hygiene and food preparation. Have about a gallon of water per day per person available.

Infants' and children's needs should also be taken into consideration as you assemble your supplies. Children's games and activities would be a good addition to your containers.

There are many items to consider storing in easy-to-carry containers — duffle bags, plastic storage containers — that are clearly labeled and easily accessible. See [www.emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness) for a more complete list of suggested items. Consider any special items you might need to have available for the areas where you might be when an emergency occurs.

Periodically go through your containers and use or remove outdated items and replace them. Look around your home to know where the water, gas and electrical shut-off locations are and how to turn them off.

Consider having a container not only for your home, but also for your office, school, summer home or vehicle. Emergencies can occur anytime.

### Are you ready?

*Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;  
love her and she will watch over you.*

(Proverbs 4:6) ♦

Source: [www.emergency.cdc.gov](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov)

## CHANGES &amp; OPPORTUNITIES

### PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Greeley, CO	St Paul's Congregational Church* (Part-time Associate Pastor)
Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational* (Associate Pastor)
LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church*
Sulphur Springs, IN	Sulphur Springs Christian Church (Family Life Minister)
Douglas, MA	Second Congregational Church*
Cook, MN	Ashawa Chapel* (Part-time)
Norwood, MN	Church of Peace* (Part-time)
Beulah, ND	Beulah Congregational Church*
Taylor, ND	Taylor Ecumenical Parish (AFLC)
Scottsbluff, NE	Plymouth Congregational Church*
Cambridge, NY	Coila Church*
Inwood, NY	Community Bible Church* (Part-time)
Parkman, OH	Parkman Congregational Church*
Beaver Springs, PA	Christ Church (EFCA)
Reynoldsville, PA	Paradise Community Church (UCC)

\* = Conference member

+ = In process

### 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.

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**DEADLINE:**  
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66th Annual Family Conference

**JULY 21-24, 2014**

**CROWNE PLAZA - PROVIDENCE (WARWICK), RHODE ISLAND**

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*See YOU in Rhode Island!*



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