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AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Pastors in Community

by **Dan Peterson**, *Area Representative of the Upper Midwest Congregational Fellowship*

In the most recent FORSEE edition, President Paul McPheeters mentions the fact that the CCCC Conference is now in the process of “*creating local Pastoral Communities facilitated by trained Community Pastors.*” I was privileged to be asked to be a Community Pastor and was able to attend the first training event, held at Camp Brookwoods in Alton, New Hampshire. The spirit of fellowship was alive, and our time together was inspiring and meaningful. Behold how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

I am so blessed to be able to return to an established pastoral community. The pastors here are not only my colleagues, but my friends as well. Six to twelve of us meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our gathering usually lasts for two hours. Our format is simple. Informal conversation followed by a discussion on a topic of choice. This past year we chose to focus on the theme: Healthy Pastors.

We have been reading and discussing one chapter at a time from Kent and Barbara Hughes’ book, *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome*. We also give ample time to share our most recent life and ministry stories and concerns. These in turn

become our prayer requests, so once everyone has had a time to share, we then break out into twos or threes to pray for each other’s needs.

Our fellowship time is a high priority. Our friendships have grown to where some gather as couples and families. Others have met for recreational purposes. Our annual pastors’ retreat continues to grow as a result of our deepening love for one another. We are truly a living example of what Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to do: *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, this fellowship is not only meant for pastors, but for the whole body of Christ. If you are already involved in a loving, accountable and prayerful group, then continue to meet for mutual edification. If you are not involved, then please give it some prayerful consideration. I am confident that if you came alongside others with a like-minded, loving spirit, looking to each other’s interests, you and the body of Christ will grow to be more like Him. Let us have this mind among ourselves, which is ours in Christ Jesus. ♦

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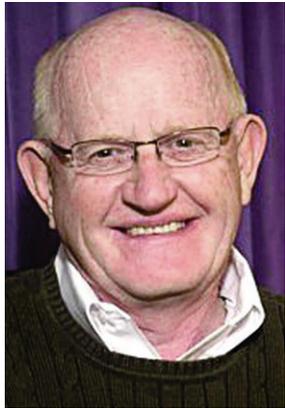
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CM COMMENTS

Reaching the Next Generation

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 conference will provide the opportunity to celebrate the foundation laid for the CCCC in past generations. Dr. Ed Stetzer, our featured speaker on Tuesday, will help us explore ways to minister effectively in this generation. Our Conference needs to face the challenge of welcoming the next generation of pastors and church members.

A recent survey of the breakdown of member ministers in the CCCC shows that 11% of the total member ministers are under age 40. This number is skewed a bit because we have many retired ministers who maintain membership in our fellowship but are not actively involved in pastoral ministry. However, it clearly points out a reality that there is much work to be done in reaching the next generation. The Conference has seen an influx of young church planters and young pastors who are interested in the work of church development that we are doing. I trust that this is the beginning of a movement in the CCCC.

The Conference has been intentional in including Millennials in our leadership. It is exciting to see these people grow in their ability to lead in many facets of our ministry. This year we are nominating two people under age 45 to serve as our President (Todd Venman) and Vice-President (Matt Milligan). Both Todd and Matt have been instrumental in the

development of the vision that God has laid on our hearts in these days.

One of the Guiding Values adopted by the leadership of the Conference is "A Membership Reflective of the Harvest Field's Diversity." This value is focused on welcoming younger people as well as people who are ethnically diverse. We are not alone in facing this challenge and we need to pray to the Lord of the harvest for young laborers to reach the next generation.

In his book, *Lost and Found*, Ed Stetzer points out four markers of young adult ministry:

- **Community** — they sense a need to be involved in genuine relationships.
- **Depth** — they'd rather be "in over their heads" in life as opposed to kicking around in the shallow end.
- **Responsibility** — they know that their choices make a difference.
- **Connection** — they want to learn from those who have experienced the things that they are about to face.

May the Lord give us the wisdom and courage to welcome the next generation into our fellowship in the coming days.

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

Passing the Mantle

Terry Shanahan, NE Regional Minister

So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 1 Kings 19:19

In Bible times a mantle was an outer garment that was worn over other clothing. Its main purpose was to keep the wearer warm, but it also served as a symbol of authority. The word mantle is used to translate four different Hebrew words from the Bible. The first word, *semikah*, literally a rug, was used when Jael covered Sisera to hide him in her tent. The second word *me'il*, meaning an outer garment, is used to describe just that, as we see in Job, and even an ephod, as we see in Samuel. The third, *maataphoth*, is a large heavy garment worn only by women. Finally, *addereth*, which also means an outer garment, but at its root means power. It's used in the Bible to refer to the mantle of Elijah. Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha and with it the power, authority and responsibility it carried.

I recently was in Lovell, Maine where I was witness to another passing of the mantle. The Faith Community Church was ordaining its new pastor, Chaz Reed. Present at the service was longtime Pastor

Warren Fuestal. The church has had pastors more recently than Pastor Warren, but he has been a faithful member and servant there for many years. In his 90s now, Warren was asked to pray the prayer of ordination over Chaz. Due to declining health, Warren was seated in his chair, and Chaz placed his chair next to him Warren reached out and laid his hands on Chaz and prayed for him as he accepted this mantle of ordination.

I couldn't help but think of the long history of mantles passed on in just this way, through the laying on of hands by those who have had hands laid on them—the passing of the mantle; the responsibility of the call. It impressed upon me even more our theme verse for this year's Annual Conference, Psalm 33:11, *But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purpose of His heart through all generations.*

To see Warren in his 90s praying over Chaz who has recently graduated from Bible college, was life-giving. Indeed the Lord's plans stand firm forever, and the purpose of His heart for all generations was on display that day.

I appreciate that in my position, I am able to share in many of these special events as I represent the

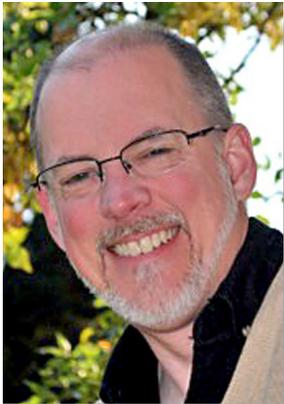
Conference. I have the privilege of witnessing God blessing His church with His workers. Of seeing Him raise up and call workers to the field, and also to see those who pass on the mantle to the next generation. ♦



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Outcomes

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



It has been rightly said that if one plans to accomplish nothing, he will surely meet his goal. I have learned that, in both the development of existing churches and in the establishing of a new one, planned ministry is critical to the kingdom success of a congregation. While some churches are struggling for survival and others have lulled themselves into ministry on autopilot (doing the same things year after year while the world around them is changing), those congregations that identify specific kingdom-oriented outcomes and create workable plans to make those outcomes a reality (usually within a time period) will continue to flourish.

I've had this conversation with many pastors over the last few months, and I am surprised at how many say they've never really thought about ministry in this way. Outcomes give very clear targets for our time, resources and effort. They help us refine ministry so that it is both culturally appropriate and fruitful. They help us define what ministry success looks like from a kingdom standpoint. And they keep us focused over time so that we are less likely to drift from that which the church is called to accomplish.

In nearly every case, the pastor or church leaders will ask me to give them an example of what I mean by an "outcome." Perhaps that would also be helpful here. Let's say that a fictitious congregation, "First Church," is situated in a community with many families with young children. They get to know their town's population through personal contact and some demographic tools and find out that 80% of those families with children are completely unaffiliated with any church. They also have learned that the majority of people who come to Christ, do so before the age of 13 (see Barna's website at <https://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/5-barna-update/196->

evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids#.U7tdR9q9KSM). As they pray about the community in which God has placed them, the leadership feels a strong conviction that they are to focus much of their ministry effort over the next year on reaching children through age 13. They will be a church for everyone, but for this season they will concentrate their time, resources and effort on ministry and evangelism that directly impacts children.

Now, what kind of outcome might "First Church" articulate to guide their ministry over the next year? One example might be to see 50 children under the age of 13 to receive Christ by Christmas. For most local churches, such an outcome would require a huge step of faith. That's as it should be! Now the church has to pray and strategize to make that outcome reality. They might be led to completely revamp their Vacation Bible School this year to reach a much larger audience. They may decide to move it outside of their church building to a place where more people already congregate (e.g., a city park, the YMCA, a large community center with a pool...). They may decide to work around already existing community schedules (i.e., summer sports, festivals, etc.) so that their ministry either does not compete with something already planned, or is purposefully designed to supplement those community activities to bless their town and increase their own connection with the non-churched. They may decide to partner with Child Evangelism Fellowship and start several backyard Bible clubs. They may sponsor regular Parents' Nights Out so that they can build good relationships with the young families in their community. They may decide to shift budgetary funds from less critical areas to Children's Ministry so that they have the needed resources. You

WORLD OUTREACH

Shalom!

by Tuvya Zaretsky

Dear brothers and sisters in the CCCC, Shalom!

As I write this July 4 is in just a few days. Wow, that means 2014 is half over! Then again, so much has already been accomplished this year. It's a privilege to see God at work. I hope that it will encourage you if I share a little of what I've seen within our Jews for Jesus ministry.

Ellen and I were in Israel during the first week of June. It was actually my second trip to Israel this year. I was providing another layer of training for our fast-growing Tel Aviv branch staff. It went so well that Israel Director Dan Sered asked if I could return to Israel in December this year to provide additional leadership development for the missionary staff.

Wonderful ministry is happening there, especially among young Israeli adults. An IDF soldiers' fellowship on Friday mornings at the Moishe Rosen Center is flourishing. Three recruits recently came through that ministry with two approved as missionary staff and one as an intern. Boris Skvortsov and David Minsky were just accepted as Israel branch missionaries along with Chaim Birnbaum who came on as a new intern. This is an amazing development, as Israel is now our largest branch. At this time in history that has significance. I'm so honored to help train and develop them all. I'm praying about their December invitation.

Meanwhile our daughter Kaile is in Israel as part of a Pepperdine University overseas program. She has an internship at Assuta Hospital in Tel Aviv. It has been a wonderful experience so far. The Lord is giving her amazing opportunities to learn about nursing and advanced medical care in Israel. She has also been challenged to give testimony of her faith in Yeshua (Jesus). More than one doctor has asked skeptically, "So, are you Jewish or a Christian?"

She's been able to answer clearly and unequivocally. Proud parents here, but she has also experienced being rebuffed for her faith. Please pray for Kaile, as she is also having amazing conversations where she can appropriately share her beliefs with the nine other students on her study program.

I'm glad to be home after extensive travel during the first half of this year. Now I can focus on the Jewish-Gentile Couples Ministry Workbook that I've wanted to write. Please pray for the Lord's mind and wisdom in this project. We have a tremendous opportunity for ministry to intermarried Jewish people right now. I hope to offer help for Evangelical Christians who would like to make this a part of their church ministry. The first draft is due by the end of August.

Also, please pray for a new Jewish-Gentile couple, "James" and "Rachel." He is a fairly new Christian, originally from Texas. She was born in Israel but grew up in Beverly Hills. "Rachel's" rich North African (Moroccan and Egyptian) Jewish heritage is a cultural stretch for "James." "Rachel" is attracted to the peace that she sees in him and is fascinated by the intensity of his faith in God. We met together last week. It went incredibly well. Pray please for wisdom as I coach "James" and for clarity as "Rachel" discovers truth about Jesus in our meetings.

I'm so grateful for the privilege to engage with Jewish people in rich conversations like these about Jesus. Thank you all for your partnership with us. We appreciate our connection with the CCCC churches. May the Lord's blessing on you all and your families at the annual meeting.

Yours in our Messiah,
Tuvya Zaretsky ♦



Tuvya Zaretsky is a CCCC minister serving as Director of Missionary Staff Development for Jews for Jesus.

There is still Time!

Register and Attend

So, things have changed and it looks like your schedule is free after all! Registration is still open for the 66th Annual Family Conference July 21-24 in Providence, Rhode Island. Many of your friends are already signed-up and are looking forward to gathering at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Providence.



WHY NOT JOIN? IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

Go to
www.cccusa.com
for more information!

OUTCOMES cont from pg 4

get the idea. The outcome(s) become the rallying cry for their ministry for that season, and the whole congregation adjusts to help make the outcome a reality. And by December 25, the church will be able to measure the kingdom results.

Planned ministry with outcomes nearly always produces more and better kingdom fruit than falling back on routines or ministering out of the need to survive.

Would you like help developing some key outcomes for your church? Would your church benefit from the focus and energy that such outcomes provide? Contact your Church Development Team for more information! You can reach us through the Conference office at (651) 739-1474. ♦

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

Norwood, MN Church of Peace*
(*Part-time*)
Dale Inman

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*)

Beulah, ND Beulah Congregational Church*

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.

HEALTH NEWS

Protect your Children Now

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



A few precautions taken with your children now can help reduce their risk for skin cancer later in life. Their skin needs protection whenever they are out in the sun's harmful ultra-violet rays.

- Be careful to apply a sunscreen with at least an SPF 15 and UVA and UVB protection each time your child goes out in the sun. Pay special attention to the ears, nose, lips and tops of feet. Be especially alert to reapplying the sunscreen after your child swims or gets sweaty, even if you have used waterproof or water-resistant sunscreen.
- If your child is under 6 months of age be sure to read the package recommendations or contact your doctor for guidelines. Best advice is to keep your infant out of the sun and in the shade.
- Shade is the best way to avoid the UV rays during midday and to help prevent sunburns, not just for relief after a sunburn occurs.
- Wearing long sleeve shirts will protect the skin from the UV rays. However, if this is not practical, applying sunscreen and seeking shade are the better choices.
- Hats with brims that will protect the face, scalp, ears and neck will provide good protection to the skin. Be sure to apply sunscreen to areas the hat does not protect from the sun's rays.
- Exposure of the eyes to the sun's damaging rays may cause cataracts later in life. Wearing sunglasses that protect the eyes from both the UVA and UVB rays are best.



Remember, the sun's rays will reflect off the water, cement, sand and white painted areas to cause skin damage, too. Clouds do not block the harmful UV rays. Protect your child's skin whenever there is a possibility of being exposed to the sun to prevent future damage.

Source: www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/children.htm; www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm.

*“From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.”*

Psalm 113:3 ◆

Registration
is still
OPEN!

66th Annual Family Conference

JULY 21-24, 2014

CROWNE PLAZA - PROVIDENCE (WARWICK), RHODE ISLAND

801 Greenwich Ave Warwick , Rhode Island 02886

See YOU in Rhode Island!



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