

“Building International Bridges of Witness and Fellowship”

THE FORESEE

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

September/October 2006 Volume 38, No. 5

Around The Conference Exurbia Meets Inner City in Youth Mission

Last summer, two CCCC congregations cooperated to provide the Teen Fellowship of St. Paul’s Church in Stowe, Pennsylvania with a unique inner-city ministry opportunity. The pastor and members of Snyder Avenue Congregational Church, Philadelphia hosted the students for a weeklong mission trip. Though separated by a distance of only 45 miles, these two congregations minister in vastly different cultures—St. Paul’s in a suburban, small town atmosphere, Snyder Avenue in inner-city South Philadelphia.

The week was a great opportunity for high school students and their advisers from Stowe to learn what life in the big city is all about. They were housed in Snyder Avenue’s church building, which was the base of operations. During the course of the week they assisted in Snyder Avenue’s food distribution

by Rev. Lenn Zeller, Eastern Pennsylvania Area Representative ministry, visited a homeless shelter in Camden, New Jersey, and participated in a mall ministry in Burlington, New Jersey. (In addition, they spent a day at the nearby Jersey shore for relaxation!)

Members of the Snyder Avenue congregation served as guides and advisers, and even led daily prayer and devotional times. The trip was a tremendous learning experience, one that allowed these two sister congregations to develop deeper ties and lasting friendships.

Youth from St. Paul’s Church minister to teens at a Burlington, New Jersey mall.



Church Planting in Salem, Massachusetts

by Rev. Kevin Leach, former Eastern Massachusetts Area Representative

When you think of Salem, Massachusetts your first thought may be of the Massachusetts Bay Colony or the Salem witch trials. Matt and Carol Kaminski think of the lost. In July 2001 the Lord placed the people of Salem on their hearts, and in the fall of 2002 they committed themselves to planting a church there.

Encouraged by other church planters in the CCCC such as Ron Hamilton and Paul McPheeters, Matt and Carol attended the Church Multiplication Training Center. This training helped them to develop a plan for their ministry.

In establishing the MeetingHouse Church in Salem, the Kaminskis faced an immediate challenge in finding a way to support the family while beginning a new church. Another obstacle was lack of a church building to carry on ministry. However, Matt and Carol have found that not having a building has been more of an advantage than a disadvantage. They have had to engage non-believers on “their” territory, and to talk with them in contexts in which they feel free to express themselves regarding spiritual issues. Developing relationships with non-believers, and having opportunities to clearly live and speak the gospel to them, has been their greatest joy.



Meeting House Church offers face painting at 4th of July celebration in Salem.

Through this experience the Lord has been teaching Matt and Carol how to pray specifically for the lost, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. MeetingHouse Church members are learning how to become a community caring for one another and for Salem.

Their ministry needs the support of other Christians with a vision to see Salem renewed by the gospel, and who are willing to become part of their core group. Developing financial support and local “ownership” of the ministry is another need. Lastly, Matt states, “We need people to be praying that more opportunities would come to speak the gospel in Salem.”

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From the Conference Minister

We Have Not Stopped Praying!

To the church in Colossae Paul wrote, “*We have not stopped praying for you*”(1:9). This was the theme of our 58th Annual Meeting in July, and the call of God upon the Church to be always devoted to prayer continues to reverberate in my heart and in our Conference! As Jesus lived a lifestyle of prayer while incarnate in flesh, and as the highest ministry priorities of His apostles were prayer and the Word of God (Acts 6:4), so was the early church in Jerusalem devoted to prayer (Acts 2:42). They often prayed together.

In his letters Paul reminded the churches he was praying for them, he requested



*Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Gammon,
CCCC Conference Minister*

their prayers, and he exhorted them to “*devote yourselves to prayer*” (Colossians.4:2). I urge that as ministers and churches of Jesus Christ you will humbly bow before Him, asking for yourself, your family and congregation an increased thirst for Him with fervency in prayer. Like the students whom God used 200 years ago in the glorious move of God that began with the Haystack Prayer Meeting, let’s be praying now in unity and with availability. May seasons of prayer become a regular part of your life together! Failing to pray together is sinful disobedience and calls for humble repentance.

Our CCCC Annual Meeting was bathed in prayer, and the Lord graciously answered us. Please rejoice with me in these specific answers to prayer:

- New national ministry positions were approved and search committees appointed for a Director of Pastoral Care and for a Director of Church Multiplication and Church Redevelopment. Praise the Lord!

- The Lord manifested spiritual unity among us, even when we discussed matters on which we had differing opinions. Though the proposed position paper on English Bible Translations was not adopted, the deliberative process was prayerful and God-honoring.

- The Board reviewed results of the “Name Change Survey” and, though a wide range of opinions were expressed, the collective decision was to retain our present name. Again, the Lord was honored in this prayerful process.

- The Facilities Task Force reported we now have a buyer for our CCCC offices and have selected a new, larger office location nearby to be completed and occupied by year’s end.

May Paul’s words to the church in Colossae be increasingly true for each of us, our congregations and our Conference, that “*We have not stopped praying for you!*”

Prayerfully,
Steve Gammon



Bryan’s Bytes

**by Rev. Bryan Burrell,
CCCC Webmaster**

Where Do We Go From Here?

The media ministry of the CCCC has continued to expand as more and more of you have chosen to use technological tools to further our mission and our vision. The recent Annual Conference in St. Cloud was an opportunity for me, and all members of the Editorial and Media Committees, to examine where we are and where we want to go. The use of technology to bridge our distance barriers will be evident more in this coming year than ever before.

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Check out the new website at www.ccccusa.com. During the year ahead the Media Committee will begin the peer review process, and we welcome your input and constructive criticisms. I encourage ministers, committees, churches and area fellowships to call me at 914-714-8577 to discuss how you can use these exciting technological tools. Effective use of these tools will enhance communication with the rest of the Conference on the part of our committees, our ministries and our regional fellowships. This coming year will see increasing opportunities for members and ministries to launch out in the media area. Be a part of it — call me today.

Carlton's Comments

Pity Party, or Positive Promises?

Because of the experiences we go through in life it is easy for us, even as Christians, to wallow around in self-pity. 1 Kings 19 gives us a biblical snapshot of what our pity parties look like in the light of God's presence, power, promises and unmitigated grace.

Elijah had fearlessly confronted the prophets of Ba'al and their "god" on Mount Carmel. He had totally trusted in the glorious name of Yahweh alone. As a result God had clearly revealed Himself to be the Lord of Lords, and shown Ba'al to be no god at all.

How quickly, however, the great prophet forgot all he had learned! As soon as he heard that Queen Jezebel had threatened to take his life because of the way he had humiliated her prophets, Elijah confidently prayed for God's protection and power—no, he didn't! He ran, instead! When the Lord had finally stopped Elijah, He found His prophet deeply bemoaning what he considered to be his sad state of affairs. Clearly Elijah was convinced that no one else's situation could possibly be as bad as his own. After all, wasn't he the only

person left in Israel that was faithful to God? To Elijah's surprise God revealed to him not only that he wasn't the only one, but that there were seven thousand Israelites who were still faithful to Yahweh!

A couple of weeks ago, in the midst of my radiation treatments, I held my own pity party. The doctor told me that I would be having forty treatments instead of the thirty I had been planning on. That



Rev. Carlton Walker, Northeast Regional Minister

meant I would be away from home a total of two full months. Then, one morning, God led me across the path of a woman who had both esophageal cancer and lung cancer. She had already had lung surgery, was now having radiation treatments on her esophagus and chemotherapy for her lung, and was

facing surgery later in the month to remove her esophagus and connect her stomach to her throat. One day's discussion with her, seeing her positive attitude, quickly destroyed my pity party!

God used that encounter to remind me again of His great promises such as "I will never leave you or forsake you;" "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose;" "cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you;" "many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails;" and "my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Needless to say, there is no doubt in my mind that God's promises are not just idle words but are ones upon which anyone can stake his or her life.

Hopefully from now on, with this lesson under my belt, I will be able to echo the Apostle Paul when he wrote, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation." I hope you have as well.

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The Micronesia-Ireland Connection

By Rev. Clair Longuevan, Chairman of the CCCC Missions Committee

Some of our readers are aware that I took a work team to Micronesia in early January. What many of you probably are not aware of is that I took a trip to Ireland in July of 2005. Something truly awesome happened and I wanted to share it with you.

One of the men on the team in Ireland, Bruce, had a friend who had given him a mascot to take with him. It was a one-eared, stuffed rabbit named Oeby (one-eared bunny). In the letters Bruce had written the owner, he had promised to take this rabbit with him every day. These letters were all written before Bruce left, and the owner of the rabbit was to open one each day.

One day while Bruce was evangelizing, God told him specifically to share the rabbit with the people at the next house. At this house a woman by the name of Catherine had her Gaelic-speaking two-year old son Cian running between her legs. After asking permission to share the Jesus video

with them, which she gratefully accepted (and one of the other team members supplied), Bruce was challenged with what God had asked him to do with sharing the one-eared bunny. So he slipped off his backpack, removed Oeby, and said to Catherine, "I am not sure why I am supposed to show you this one-eared bunny."

Her eyes widened and her little boy, who had stopped moving, clutched her as she exposed the left side of his head. "I want you to meet my one-eared little boy," she said.

Needless to say, the team received great blessing from the Lord. This was a clear confirmation that we were exactly where we were supposed to be. Can you believe that one of the letters that was written in advance actually said that Oeby met a one-eared little boy? And what are the chances that a rabbit that was bought by a little girl in California would make its way to Ireland thirty years later, just so God could show His amazing love and omniscience?

58th Annual Family Conference

July 17-20, St. Cloud, Minnesota



Conference Minister Dr. Stephen A. Gammon speaks during the opening session, with the Conference theme banner in the background.

I am praying that God will put his ear to our heart, and hear the heartbeat of His Son!

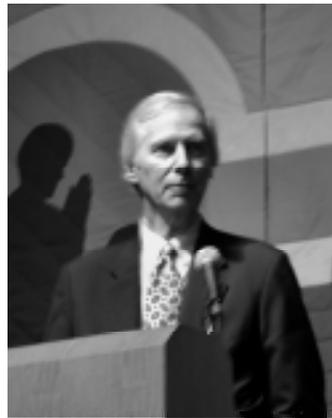
Dr. George K. Brushaber, President of Bethel University, was the Conference Bible teacher.

Grace is offensive to fallen humanity, because we have a feeling we ought to deserve what we get. . . . Chances are you don't rhapsodize, in your quiet moments, about holiness, truthfulness or righteousness. That's part of our fallen nature.

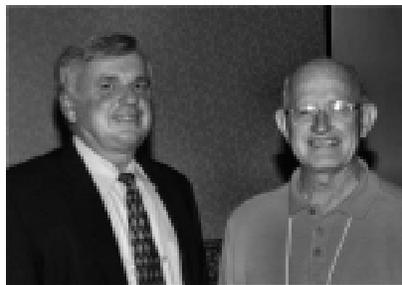


Dr. Paul A. Cedar of Mission America Coalition spoke on Wednesday.

To believe in prayer is certainly noble, but it is not functional until we pray. . . . We are not only independent, we are interdependent. Christ created His church so we would need one another.



Speaker for the Ladies' Banquet was Helen Gammon, wife of the Conference Minister. The Men's Banquet heard from Mayor William Hargis of Woodbury, Minnesota, shown here with his Pastor Ron Hamilton.



Rev. Tim Sir and the team from First Congregational Church, Cresco, Iowa, lead worship music.



Conference president Rev. Nicholas Granitsas keeps the business sessions moving. Assisting are recording secretary Rev. Peter Murdy and parliamentarian Rev. Steve Felker.



The exhibit hall offered a number of displays. Above, Duane Lahti and Rev. Thomas A. Curry represent Friends of Hope, a mission support organization.



Rev. Ron Hamilton of the Church Multiplication Committee presents the seminar on "Special K People," one of the many seminars offered.



Rev. Scott Koop leads a session with the youth who attended the Conference.



Children of Conference attendees had their own activities during the week.

Conference Action

During daily business sessions, the approximately 220 voting delegates

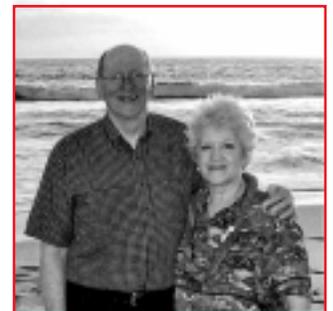
- accepted a 2007 budget of \$537,100, a 49% increase made possible in part by the Phillips Church capital gift
- authorized addition of two Conference staff members, a Director of Pastoral Care and a Director of Church Multiplication and Redevelopment
- received twelve new congregations and two new regional fellowships into membership
- noted the completion of applications for 65 ministers and other Christian workers by the Credentials Committee
- heard the report of the Board of Directors regarding relocation of the Conference office to new and larger quarters in Lake Elmo, Minnesota, and sale of the facilities in Woodbury
- noted the decision by the Board of Directors that the name of the Conference will not be changed
- received the “Open Hands” award from World Relief for contributions to the work of that agency
- amended the CCCC Constitution deleting references to the former Foresee Publications
- received and adopted the reports of all officers, committees and area representatives
- heard the first reading of a proposed constitutional amendment expanding the Statement of Faith
- declined to adopt the proposed Statement on English Bible Translation.

Christensens Enjoy Hawaii Vacation

by Rev. Clifford L. Christensen, former Conference Minister

Well, it finally happened! Carol and I were able to take our long-awaited vacation to Hawaii. Many of you will remember the 2003 Annual Meeting at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach, Virginia when the Conference graciously gave us a gift of money — along with Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts — to vacation in Hawaii. However, we were due to be in Franklin, Vermont one week after the Annual Meeting to serve for five months as interim pastor at the Franklin United Church and the East Franklin Union Church. It was a wonderful experience!

Then, before we left Franklin, we were put in touch with other churches needing interims, and we sensed the Lord calling us to the Peoples Evangelical Church in South Ashburnham, Massachusetts. We were there for seven and a half months and enjoyed another wonderful ministry experience. On our way home to Minnesota we received word that Carol’s mother had died, and so we left immediately for Oklahoma to attend the funeral and be with family. We returned to Minnesota in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and then began our third interim at the Avon Community Church in Avon, Minnesota on January 1, 2005.



After enjoying fifteen wonderful months in Avon with no end in sight, we decided it was time to finally take our trip to Hawaii. Actually, it was providential that we waited. Two sons, one daughter-in-law and three grandchildren are living in Japan for a year, so we decided to combine our trip to Hawaii with a trip to Japan. Our first two weeks were in Japan, and then we spent a week in Lihue, Kauai and Honolulu. What a wonderful gift from the Conference!

Carol and I thank the Conference for your generosity to us. Thank you for making this trip possible, and thank you for all the years we have been blessed to be a part of such a fine fellowship.

Mahalo!

Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day

by Rev. Richard D. Chaffee, Amber Congregational Church, Marietta, New York

October ends with a significant reminder, and November begins with another. Both days recall events and people who have made the church what it is today. We do well to pay attention to history, for it can be an important teacher.

We observe Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October, as a reminder that truth can be hidden under rituals and traditions. On October 31, 1517 a young German priest named Martin Luther posted his "Ninety-Five Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This document was simply 95 short statements that he would openly debate with anyone on the topic of the sale of indulgences. An indulgence was an official paper, sold by the church, that promised the buyer, or anyone the buyer named, forgiveness of sin and escape from purgatory. People flocked to purchase these for themselves and their departed loved ones.

Martin Luther rejected indulgences as contrary to the teaching of Scripture. He taught that only Jesus Christ provides forgiveness from sin. Salvation is not for sale but is the gift of grace to all who believe. Luther went on to clarify other teachings in the Bible, but perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the translation of the Bible into German. Prior to this the Bible was a closed book to the common man. Its message was unknown to any except those who knew the dead languages of Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Now its truth was open for all.

The twin themes of the Reformation were justification by faith alone and authority by Scripture alone. What this means, practically, is that for all mankind there is only one way of access to God and only one means of providing for the sins of the world. That one way is faith in Jesus. This is what the Scriptures teach. Our relationship to God is based not on our performance but on his work and Word. These are truths we must never forget.

The second significant day we observe is All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday in November. It is the reminder that death

itself cannot separate us from our fellow believers. The promise of Christ is that he will prepare a place for those who love him, so that where he is there they will be also (John 14:1-4).

All Saints Day began as a memorial for the church's martyrs. These who had given their lives to proclaim or defend the teachings of Jesus are to be admired, remembered and followed. But as time passed it was recognized, especially among the Reformation churches, that Scripture calls all believers in Jesus "saints." This is not a title reserved for the special few, or those who died a martyr's death. It applies to all who have faith in Jesus. Our observance of the day became a healthy recognition of what the Apostles' Creed calls "the communion of saints."

This celebration was originally held during the Easter season. Later it was moved to November 1, probably to counter the pagan festival related to the dead that has evolved into the present Halloween. In the church, however, our attention is

not on death and dying but on life everlasting. We celebrate the assurance of life beyond the grave and look forward to a reunion with loved ones who have died in the faith of Christ.

History places both of these days in our church calendar. They are significant for what they help us to recall. Reformation Sunday reminds us that we are always in need of reform; but that true reformation happens only through the activity of Christ in our lives and attention to his Word. All Saints Sunday prods us to a thankful remembrance of those who have gone before us, teaching us, modeling faith for us, showing us the way of truth.

History is a fine teacher if we care to give it our attention. Without it we stumble around often making the same mistakes our fathers did. But salvation is not an issue we can risk being wrong about. Let's thank God for history's lessons.

Reprinted from The Shorelight, newsletter of Amber Congregational Church, November 2005



Martin Luther - Portrait by Lucas Cranach the Elder

CCCC People to Pray For

Let's Be Praying as a CCCC Family for . . .

- Increased prayerfulness in our families, ministers and churches
- Direction for churches seeking pastors and for pastors seeking churches
- Continued wisdom, energy and vision for our Conference leaders
- Guidance in selecting the persons of God's choosing to be CCCC Director of Pastoral Care and Director of Church Multiplication and Church Redevelopment
- Financial provision for the CCCC, as our 2007 general fund budget requires a 30% increase in gift income
- The light and truth of Jesus Christ to brightly shine in the darkness and be boldly declared throughout the whole world, as the day of His coming draws ever nearer.

Continued from page 3

I know you must be saying, “What does this have to do with Micronesia?” The Chuuk work team consisted of six guys. One of them was Bruce, whom I had taken to Ireland. We worked on the classrooms to make them safe for the students, then proceeded to build fifty roof trusses. (The new roof has been installed since our team left.)

Termites had done severe damage to the old classrooms, and they had to be repaired to ensure the safety of the children while a new building was being completed. The work was challenging. Each man consumed between two and three gallons of water a day just to maintain some fluids in the body. Putting a fresh coat of paint on the reinforced floors took up most of the first week. Crawling on one’s belly under a termite-ridden building is no treat in the best of conditions, much less in the tropics on the equator. But everyone in the country was telling how the white missionaries were belly-crawling under buildings, and had actually paid to be there! They found this shocking after being so abused by the Japanese during World War II.

And the Ireland connection? The missionary asked Bruce to share his testimony during the children’s chapel. So Bruce told the story of Oeby on the other side of the world. Fourteen young people took a stand for Christ—six prayed to receive Him for the first time in their lives. What a privilege it was to watch our Lord pull together two trips in order to

save lives and expand the kingdom.

I praise God for missions, and I hope you do too. The Missions Committee also hopes that many of you will join one of our teams in the coming twelve months.

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes:

None

Pastoral Openings:

Biola CA	Biola Congregational Church*
Ripon CA	First Congregational Church*
Greeley CO	St. Paul’s Congregational Church*
Longmont CO	Christ Congregational Church*
Belleville IN	Hope Church
Middletown IN	Sulphur Springs Christian Church (UCC)
Garner IA	Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church*
Grinnell IA	Newburg-Chester Congregational*
Parkersburg IA	First Congregational*
Carthage ME	Carthage Union Church* (Part time)
Eureka MI	Eureka Christian Church*
Flint MI	Cross Church*
Muskegon MI	Orchard View Congregational*
Avon MN	Avon Community Church*
Holdingford MN	Community Country Church*
Scottsbluff NE	Emmanuel Congregational Church*
Inwood NY	Community Bible Church* (Part time)
West Valley NY	Riceville Community Church (Part time)
Vermilion OH	Vermilion Evang & Reformed Church*
Bernville PA	St. Thomas UCC
Fredonia PA	Christ Community Church* (Part time)
Loysburg PA	St John’s Reformed Church*
Disputanta VA	Bethlehem Congregational Church * (Part time)
Cheney WA	Cheney Community Church (NAE)
Wilton WI	Faith Congregational Church*

* = Conference member

+ = In process

Health Tips

Medication Safety

Whether you take over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medication, you need to be careful to reduce the risks related to their use so you will receive the maximum benefit. Be sure you understand the directions on the label and know why you are taking the medication. Be certain to ask the doctor, nurse or pharmacist questions you may have before taking any new medication. Your doctor and pharmacist need to know all of the OTC, prescription medicine and dietary supplements you are taking, routinely or occasionally, to be able to alert you to any possible interactions.

Even following the proper directions, you may have a problem that needs to be discussed with your doctor or pharmacist. Check all medication when you receive it to be sure it has not been opened. Once opened check to be sure it looks like your previous medication. Do not take someone else’s medication and keep all medicines locked away from children who may come into your home.

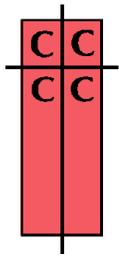
Source: www.fda.gov

Healthy Fingernails

Proper care of your fingernails will avoid many nail conditions. Fingernails grow faster on your dominant hand. They grow more in the summer than in the winter. To keep your nails healthy, treat them gently – wear gloves when using soap and water for a prolonged period of time or if using harsh chemicals. Do not use your nails to pick, poke or pry things. Biting your nails or picking your cuticles are habits that can damage the nail bed and allow bacteria or fungi to cause an infection. Rub lotion on your nails, not just on your hands.

Source: Mayoclinic.com

by Betty Mitchell, RN, Parish Nurse
Emmanuel Bethel Church
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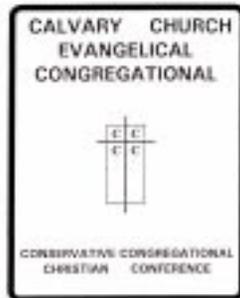
Conference Books Are Available

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

The CCCC Online Bookstore is no longer in operation due to reasons beyond our control.

However- Conference books and CCCC novelties items are always available by contacting Gayle .
Such as: (Logo Coffee Mugs-Men’s and Ladies Logo Polo Golf Shirts- Tote - Bible/Book Bags.)

Custom Church Signs



Blue and Red on White

16 Gauge Steel - Rust Proof - Baked on Enamel

Size 24” X 30”

Prices (discounted when buying more than one sign:

- First sign..... \$125.00
- Second sign.....\$85.00
- Third sign..... \$70.00
- Fourth sign..... \$60.00

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