



# THE FORESEE

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

November/December 2008 Volume 40, No. 6

## Around The Conference

### News from Southern California

CCCC pastors in southern California have been meeting this past year at our Plymouth Congregational Church in Whittier, hosted by the senior pastor, Dan Pryor. One large prayer concern this past year has been the health of our former Area Representative, Pastor Chuck Van Kirk. Chuck had been diagnosed with a dangerous lung tumor. We are now praising the Lord, that Chuck is recovering from his illness. After extensive chemotherapy, Chuck went through a long 13-hour lung operation at the UCLA Medical Center. We praise the Lord, that he came through the long operation very well, and that the tumor was removed. Chuck and his wife, Diane, and their family hope to have him at home again by the end of September in Running Springs, California.

Our churches in southern California continue to pray for our new church plant, the Sovereign Grace Church in Los

Angeles, which has been continuing to grow. The church meets at an art school on Sunday afternoons. Sovereign Grace Church is reaching out to the many diverse groups of people living in the center of Los Angeles. From the high rise church parking garage persons attending can view the skyline of L.A., Little Tokyo, and numerous new condos and apartments under construction. A true multi-ethnic church, it welcomes persons of many ethnic and cultural groups. Let's keep praying for the pastor, Alex Choi, and his new assistant, Ryan McDaniel, as they reach out to this needy area.

Pastors and church members in California are looking forward to a church planting seminar, "Quest" which will be sponsored by our CCCC Church Multiplication Committee October 1-3. The seminar will be held at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. Marvin Eyler, Southern California Area Representative

## Churches Under Construction in Wisconsin

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church... Matthew 16:18*

Several CCCC churches in Wisconsin are in the midst of construction. Praise Chapel in Crandon, Wisconsin, is close to finishing a building project they started about five years ago. Pastor Bill Farr, who has served there for 19 years, reports, "The Lord has blessed in many ways. We began with faith that God would supply money as we built so we would not have to borrow money, and He has done just that. There have been numerous donations to supply needs and we have never stopped building."

St. Paul's Christian Church and St. Peter Evangelical Church of Elkhart Lake, both served by Pastor Keith Hunholz, are being remodeled. St. Paul's is completing the addition of a new fellowship hall. St. Peter is marking their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary by not only reflecting on the faithfulness of God in the past, but also looking forward to the future. They are making their sanctuary and fellowship hall handicap accessible by remodeling the entryway and adding a lift.

First Congregational Church in Hartford is in the planning stages of a building program to erect a new "meetinghouse" on 6½ acres of land the Lord has provided. Pastor Doug Livingston shares: "We are praying that God will provide all the money up front so that we don't have to borrow anything. Soon, we will have the approximate figure on how much it will cost. Please join us in praying that God

*will meet our need and build His house to His glory to reach the lost for Christ and build up the believers in Him."*

But as this construction takes place, it reflects a more important remodeling that is taking place in our CCCC churches throughout the state. God is at work taking the rough lumber of our lives and growing our faith to build disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 3:18: *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. As we gather to worship, we open the Scriptures, the blueprint for the construction God has in mind, so that we can determine what God is saying to us today, and apply God's truth to our*

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## From the Conference Minister

*I have a dream!* Whenever I hear those words I think of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's speech delivered in 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, 100 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Dr. King reminded his hearers of the wonderful promise that was given a century before, but of how far the nation still was from the realization of that promise. He referred to the horrors of segregation and discrimination and the injustice of the way things were.



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

But he did not accept the status quo as the way things must be. He cast a vision for the way things could yet be! One phrase he used in his speech has stirred my own soul about some of the places where we are still so far from where we should be. Though he spoke these words about our nation, I have pondered them in relation to the church and our work as a Conference in America. Dr. King spoke of "*the fierce urgency of now*," suggesting that the time is RIGHT NOW for us to make changes and to live together what we were called to be!

The Lord has spoken to me concerning my own life and that of our ministers and churches and Conference. We have not yet reached the promised land of revival. We have not yet fully realized our destiny of walking in holiness, and living as witnesses for God who declare the message of salvation through Christ to our communities and world. In whatever ways we are not yet what we must be, let us humbly repent of our sins, and remember again what we were called to. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2. Here the Apostle Paul reminds the church of the dream that we must live in and proclaim to all our towns and cities. It's the dream of a Church of new creations in Christ, of communities of people who live and proclaim the gospel of reconciliation with God. Paul reminded us of the urgency of now. He wrote (2 Corinthians 6:2b) *I tell you now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.*

Because God has called us to this, and because our days are so short and eternity is forever, I firmly believe that NOW IS the time for the CCCC to own the dream again. "*The fierce urgency of now*" requires us to listen again to the commands of God in Holy Scripture that we come to Christ and get right with God, and then live in righteousness and obedience, laboring together to make disciples in this generation. Our CCCC ministries of Church Redevelopment and Multiplication are NOW bearing much fruit for eternity. NOW IS the time for all of us to share the dream!



(continued from page 1)

lives. At Daystar Christian Fellowship, Pastor Philip Allen inserted "The Quiet Corner," five little scripture passages and a couple of questions on each passage in the bulletin, for people to use Monday-Friday for their quiet time and a followup on Sunday's sermon. Pastor Allen notes: "It has been amazing to watch God work through that. People are experiencing tremendous growth spiritually; they are growing closer to God and closer to each other!"

Rev. Keith Hunholz, Wisconsin Area Representative

**New  
fellowship  
hall at St.  
Paul's  
Christian  
Church,  
Elkhart  
Lake,  
Wisconsin**



## THE FORESEE

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Deadline for the January 2009 issue is  
November 10, 2008.

**Mark Your  
Calendar Now**

**CCCC 61<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Family Conference**

**July 20-23, 2009  
Waterloo, Iowa**

## From the Northeast Regional Minister

Rev. Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

*I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.* Philippians 3:10

In this space I have reported that as I travel the Northeast I witness God moving in amazing ways. Through church redevelopment, previously dormant churches are coming alive in Christ. Through church multiplication, the gospel is being spread to many who have never heard, and that is exciting.

One thing I have not reported on is the amount of sacrifice and suffering that is taking place among our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. As I become involved in the lives of pastors, churches and parishioners in the Northeast, the news of suffering becomes almost overwhelming.

In recent weeks we have heard of one pastor diagnosed with Lou Gherig's disease, another with a brain tumor, while another lost his house to a flood. One has lost and another may be losing their home to foreclosure. Shortly after starting their ministry, one pastor's wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, already metastasized to her bones. Another pastor's wife received a kidney transplant which failed the next day. One pastor was asked to resign, another resigned on his own after moral failure. Another pastor faces divorce. And these are just the recent events, the ones we know about. Multiply these many times over and you have a picture of what God's people are facing.

Philippians 3:10 speaks of the fellowship of *sharing in Christ's suffering*. In this context it refers to our individual fellowship with Christ and identifying with His suffering that makes manifest in us the power of His resurrection. But as a fellowship of believers, we not only identify with Christ, but with each other in our sufferings. At any given time, people are reeling and recovering from devastating news. As Christ's followers, connected to Him, we are committed to each other to share our burdens.



The connectedness piece is all important. Ministry is demanding. Ministry is full of joy at times, but also suffering and pain. Sharing that suffering is key for being able to walk through the pain.

We all have people in our lives going through struggles this very moment. God has perhaps prompted us to reach out to them, but life gets in the way. Stop right now, pick up the phone or write a card. Our connectedness in Christ cries out for us to do so.

Yours in Christ,  
Terry

## Children's Book Published by CCCC Minister

Nelson "Nick" Chamberlain has published a new children's book, *The Adventures of Papillon*. This work for children age 8–12 features 17 warm and whimsical tales about Papillon, the smiley-faced clown, tales to help children learn how to make new friends, handle their fears, deal with loneliness and difficult times, and look forward with joy to growing up.



Chamberlain is pastor of Wiggins Community Church in Wiggins, Colorado. He also has two other books under contract and soon to be published: *Galilean Nights*, a work of historical fiction, and *The Worm in the Skull*, a book of religious fantasy. The publisher of *The Adventures of Papillon* is Copestone Fiction, a division of Oak Tara (oaktara.com). It is available online from Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Booksamillion.com, Target.com and other national retail outlets.

## Let God Build Faith Through Circumstances

American Christians have faced new challenges in recent years. Terrorist attacks on our country, culminating with the September 11, 2001 airliner attacks in New York and Washington, DC have wrought permanent changes in our lives. And only time will tell the long-term effects of the recent financial near-meltdown. Many face these situations with an Alfred E. Neumann "What, me worry?" attitude, while others resort to paranoia.

Political leaders, because of the nature of politics, are in a position to do little about such crises. However, this being an election year, candidates have made it sound as though they can solve each and every problem the nation faces, if only the other party would be responsible and agree with them.

The Bible assures us that our sovereign God is in control. God has not promised us or any nation the we would have, or even deserve, luxury, comfort and ease. The great Revivals of history did not come out of prosperity, but out of difficulty.

In hard times, let us trust more fully in our Lord. And if He has provided the means to survive the difficulties, be even more willing to share with those who are suffering, sharing our love and our possessions in the name of Jesus.

The Editor



## Help those Suffering in Haiti

Tropical storms Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike have wiped out most of Haiti's food crops and damaged irrigation systems and pumping stations, threatening hunger for millions in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The storms triggered flooding and killed at least 425 people in less than a month, including 194 in the critical rice-growing Artibonite Valley.



"The system of agriculture has been destroyed," Agriculture Minister Joanas Gue told The Associated Press. Aid agencies and diplomats also say Haiti desperately needs help to avert mass hunger. The United Nations has raised less than 2 percent of a critical \$108 million fundraising appeal, while another \$18 million has been pledged but not delivered.

"The scope of this is frankly unimaginable in many countries," said U.S. Ambassador Janet Sanderson. "A lot of the progress of the last couple of years has been swept away by these waters." Haiti always struggled to feed its people. Now, it's getting to be impossible.

Our churches need to reach out to the suffering people of Haiti. Here are three Haiti Relief Ministries with CCCC Ministry Partners:

**Idea Ministries** — This is a 501(c)(3) ministry that CCCC member minister Rev. Karl Olsson and his wife Ann Olsson, a CCCC Commissioned Christian Worker, utilize for their service in Haiti. The Olssons have lived in Port-au-Prince

Haiti for ten years now, where Karl serves as Senior Pastor of Quisqueya Chapel. Living and serving the Lord in this impoverished land, the Olssons work through their church to bring much needed help in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Reference the Olsson's name, write "humanitarian relief" on the memo line of your check made out to "IDEA Ministries" and send it to: 4595 Broadmoor SE, Suite 237, Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5449.

**North Haiti Mission** — This is a 501(c)(3) ministry that focuses on community development and Bible-based spiritual training in Northern Haiti, promoting medical care, feeding programs, education, agricultural help and propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. CCCC member minister Rev. Clint Goddard and his wife Connie are the founders of this ministry. More information can be found at [www.northhaitimission.org](http://www.northhaitimission.org). A "Food and Flood" Fund has been set up. Donations can be made out to North Haiti Mission and sent to Clint Goddard at 268 Reef Run Road, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

**Partners with Haiti** — This is a 501(c)(3) ministry that provides education, housing, feeding programs and jobs that has set up a "Hurricane Emergency Fund" to assist the multitudes of people who have lost so much recently by hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike. CCCC Member Minister Rev. John Eklund is a long time volunteer and member of the PWH Board. More information is found at [www.partnerswithhaiti.org](http://www.partnerswithhaiti.org). Donations can be made out to the Hurricane Emergency Fund and sent to Partners with Haiti, 25 Old County Road, Barrington, RI 02806.



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## Short Term Mission Opportunities

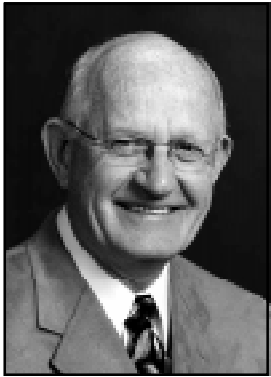
The CCCC Missions Committee is sponsoring four short term missions trips in 2009. A Building and Ministry team of 10–15 people will go June 1–14 to Timisoara, Romania. A Youth Ministry team of 15–25 people ages 16–21 will go June 15–27 to Pristina, Kosovo. A Ministry Team of 8–12 college age and adults will go July 24–August 8 to Skofljica, Slovenia.

And a Refugee Ministry Team of 6–8 people will go August 10–21 to Black Forest, Germany.

If you are interested in participating in any of these, please contact Clair Longuevan at [clonguevan@cs.com](mailto:clonguevan@cs.com) or (970) 243-5949.

## We are Sent With a Message...

The Great Commission is expressed in different ways in the New Testament. The simplest and most straightforward expression is found in John 20 when Jesus meets his disciples after the resurrection and says, *As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.* (John 20:21) Another expression is found in Luke's gospel which reads,



*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be*

*preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."* (Luke 24:45-49)

Jesus makes it clear that we are sent with a message. Simply

Dr. Ron Hamilton, CCCC Director of Church Multiplication stated, we are to call people to repentance as we offer forgiveness of sins. People who respond to this message experience the new creation in which the old has gone and the new has come. Daily life is transformed and people have hope for eternal life in heaven. We are called to boldly share this message and invite people to respond.

This is the "heart and soul" of our church multiplication movement. Our church planters are taught to take this good news in new ways to people who have not yet responded to Jesus Christ. They are encouraged to be bold as they meet people and build their ministries. I can assure you that this is happening in CCCC church plants.

Our church planting pastors are bold communicators of this message. They are active in meeting people and sharing this message. And most of all, people are responding to this message by turning from their old life, experiencing Christ's love and forgiveness, and joining us in sharing this message with others. I have met many people who came to faith through the ministry of our new churches. I trust that every CCCC pastor and every CCCC church will join our new churches in boldly engaging in this ministry.

## Counseling the Church

Dr. John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care and Church Redevelopment

I can remember her frustration — and mine. I've always done my share of pastoral counseling. When counselees would listen to and apply the recommended Biblical principles to their situations, there was often great success. When counselees gave lip service to wanting help, but ignored the wisdom given, circumstances would usually worsen, sometimes to the point of disaster. In this case, the young lady in question had made several appointments, but she refused any of my advice. Hers was a situation relatively easy to fix, but only if she would make certain adjustments to her life. She would not, and things eventually spiraled out of control.

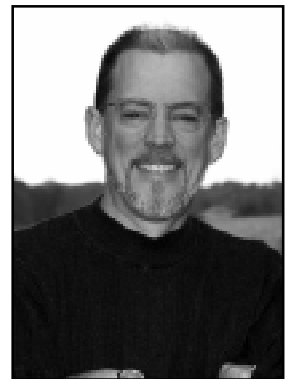
Interestingly, churches can do the same thing. With a genuine desire for healthy, fruit-bearing ministry, some congregations seek help when facing difficulty or pain — sinful activity, intimidating personalities, gossip, conflict, etc. — but then refuse the very help they've requested! Just as with individuals, congregations may reject wise counsel when it requires more than they want to give.

One common reason is the impact of the "power broker." It may be one person, or a small but vocal group; either way the church succumbs to a powerful minority that controls the entire congregation. Such situations beg the question: How is this Congregationalism? If we define our Congregationalism as the local *body* of Christ prayerfully seeking *together* the lordship, grace and guidance of Jesus for her life and ministry, desiring such a prayerful *consensus* within the body as to know and follow the will of God, then how can so few

continue to frustrate and misdirect whole congregations? Even if the local church were a democracy (an incorrect assumption, as the church is led by the supremacy of Christ and his kingdom rule over the local body), why would the whole body yield to the minority? In our churches, "power brokers" wield the influence the congregation allows. We give them permission to wreak havoc; if we don't, the problem ceases.

It is distressing to counsel pastors and churches about this and watch them refuse. I have often led church leaders to Matthew 10:26-28, only to see them fear their fellow man over God. If the congregation would unite in prayerful submission to Christ and, as a body, would hold intimidators accountable to the Word, the problem would cease (if only because they may leave). But alas, many will not foster such Biblical accountability because their relationships with these people are more important (or more fearful) to them than being faithful to the Savior.

A local congregation has the right and the authority to say, "Enough!" It is sin to allow powerful people to control the body and impede her part in our Lord's gospel ministry. But it's a sin many churches choose not to address. What does your church do with intimidating personalities?



## Governor William Bradford

It was William Bradford, longtime governor of the Congregational colony of New Plymouth, who was responsible for the name by which those colonists are most commonly known today. In his classic history *Of Plymouth Plantation*, he made this comment on their departure from Leiden, Holland for the New World: “So they left that goodly and pleasant city which had been their resting place for twelve years; but they knew they were pilgrims, and looked not much on those things, but lifted up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country, and quieted their spirits.”

He was a man of humble birth, son of a farmer in Austerfield, Yorkshire, in England. Around the age of twelve, his reading of the Bible began to make a great impression on him, and he joined a group of Puritans who met for prayer and discussion at the house of William Brewster in the nearby village of Scrooby. He became a devoted member of the Separatist church that was organized from this group, despite the opposition of his family. In 1609 he joined a number of the members of the Scrooby congregation in sailing to the Netherlands to escape the persecution of King James I. The Scrooby church went first to Amsterdam, but settled in the smaller city of Leiden. There Bradford supported himself as a weaver.

Life in the Netherlands proved difficult for the English exiles, and they made the bold decision to relocate to the wilderness of America. There they could live by English law and with English customs, but be free from interference with their way of worship. Bradford, though a young man, was appointed to the committee to make practical arrangements for their move. He sailed on the *Mayflower* with his wife and young son.

Before the colony was established, Bradford suffered a great personal loss. While the *Mayflower* was still at anchor in the harbor, his wife Dorothy fell overboard and drowned. Though there is no definite evidence of this, there has been much speculation that her death was a suicide provoked by the prospect of settling in a barren wilderness. Three years later Bradford was married to Alice Southworth, a widow

with two sons from the Leiden church who had recently come over to join them.

Bradford had great responsibility thrust upon him very soon. John Carver, the original governor, was one of the many colonists who did not survive their terrible first winter. In May 1621, William Bradford, although just thirty-one, was

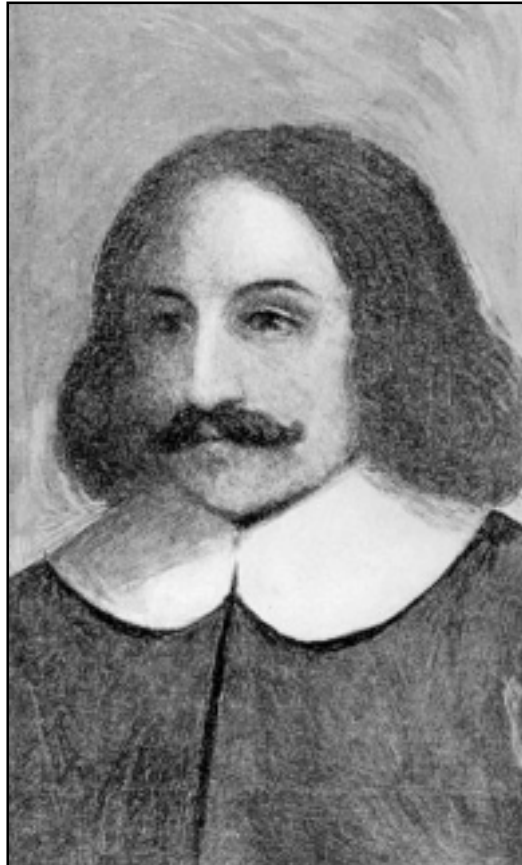
unanimously chosen to succeed him. Bradford served the Plymouth colony as governor for most of the rest of his life. He was re-elected to that office thirty times.

Bradford’s career as governor reminds us of what a blessing it is to have godly leadership. He was a man of remarkable personal integrity, reflected in costly personal decisions he made. In 1630, the charter for the colony was re-written in a form that would have made him the sole proprietor. He promptly shared this proprietary right with the other “Old Comers” (the original settlers), and then convinced them to share this right with all the Freemen of the colony. In 1648 he was one of the leaders of the colony who sold large portions of their property to settle a debt with their creditors in England.

William Bradford is remembered as an author as well as a leader in government. His journal, published

as *Of Plymouth Plantation*, is one of the great classics of American history. The manuscript for this was almost lost before it had been published in its entirety. It had been kept in the New England Library of Old South Church in Boston, and was apparently looted by a British soldier during the American Revolution. It turned up in the Bishop of London’s library in 1855, and was returned to Massachusetts with great ceremony in 1897.

This great Pilgrim father has a word for us today. His gravestone in Plymouth bears this inscription (in Latin): “What our forefathers with so much difficulty secured, do not basely relinquish.”



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**“Though God wants Christians to vote responsibly, we dare not assume He wants them all to vote the same.”**



# Sign Up Now to Continue to Receive The FORESEE

Beginning with the January, 2009 issue, The FORESEE will take on a new look. Several immediate improvements will be obvious:

- It will be in full color.
- It will be published monthly.
- It will be more current with more information.

Unfortunately, all these improvements would cost money we do not have, unless we cut our printing and distribution costs.

So in order to receive The FORESEE in a timely manner, you must do one of two things:

- Sign up for e-mail notification of on-line publication.
- If you do not have Internet access, request a printed subscription in writing.

Most, though not all, of our readers have Internet access. You can read or easily print out The FORESEE from our website at [www.ccccusa.com](http://www.ccccusa.com) All past issues are available as well. Go there now to register for automatic e-mail notification, so you don't forget it. The sign-up form is on the first page of the web site.

If you do not have Internet access, please request a printed copy from your church. We are encouraging all our churches to print copies from the Internet for those members who do not have Internet access or are

otherwise unable to get them online. For those who are not in a position to get a printed copy from their church, please fill out the coupon below and return it to the CCCC office:

**Conservative Congregational Christian Conference**  
**8941 Highway 5**  
**Lake Elmo, MN 55042**

This has been months in study and planning, involving the editor, the Editorial Committee, the Conference Staff and the Board of Directors. It is not without weaknesses, but we believe it will be a significant improvement, and will increase readership and interest in the long run. Please join with us in the excitement of this visionary move.

Ken McGarvey, FORESEE Editor

## Health Tips

### Diabetes

We are all aware of our cholesterol number, but do you know your glucose number? Diabetes is a silent disease, but can be treated once it is diagnosed. Too much sugar in your blood over a period of time can harm your eyes, nerves and kidneys before you are aware you have this condition.

Aging increases your risk for diabetes as does gaining too much weight or not staying active. Other risk factors include elevated blood pressure, a family history of diabetes or having a baby weighing more than nine pounds.

Signs that may indicate a need for further testing include being very thirsty, going to the bathroom often and losing weight without trying.

Keeping active, losing excess weight and eating low fat meals that are high in fruits, vegetables and whole grain foods will help lower your risk for diabetes.

Source: *American Diabetes Assoc.*

### Be Ready

When you are planning to receive your flu vaccine for the 2008-2009 flu season, remember to update all of your immunizations. Children and adults need to be up to date for proper protection. The tetanus vaccine needs to be repeated every ten years. Other vaccines to check on are injectable polio, Hepatitis A and B and the pneumonia vaccine if you are over 65. Your doctor may have other recommendations if you are traveling.

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

Please send me a printed copy of each issue of The FORESEE beginning January, 2009, as I am unable to access it on the Internet.

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My Church \_\_\_\_\_

## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes:

Peoria Heights IL Peoria Heights Congregational Church \* Karl Kraemer

### Pastoral Openings:

Longmont CO	Christ Congregational Church *
Wethersfield CT	First Church of Christ
Garner IA	Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church *
Parkersburg IA	First Congregational Church * (Associate Pastor)
Kellogg ID	United Church of Kellogg *
Rockland ID	Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Winchester IN	Winchester Congregational Christian Church
Billerica MA	Community Congregational Church *
South Grafton MA	Union Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Lebanon ME	First Parish Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Cannon Falls MN	First Congregational Church
Shorewood MN	Minnewashta Church *
Kulm ND	First Congregational Church *
Boulder City NV	Grace Community Church
Candia NH	Candia Congregational Church
Kennedy NY	Clarks Corners Community Church
Loysburg PA	St. John's Reformed Church *
Beloit WI	Shopiere Congregational Church

\* = Conference member



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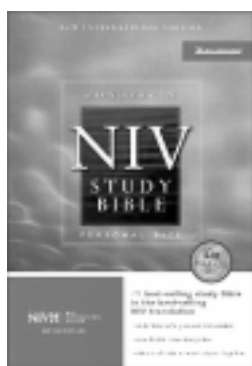
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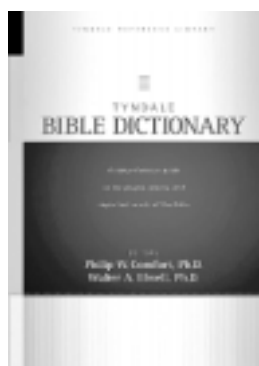
November/December 2008 Volume 40, No. 6

**“Tools For Studying God’s Word”**

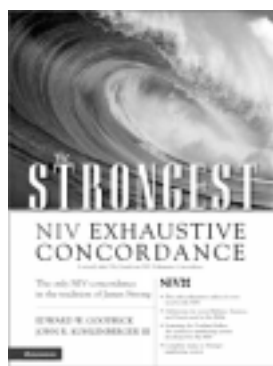
*Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8*



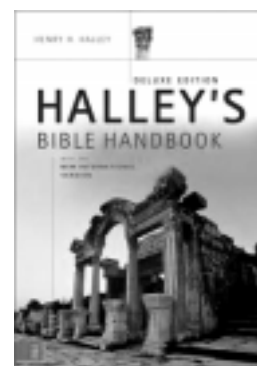
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**Halley’s Bible Handbook**, now in full color, the twenty-fifth edition provides time-tested help for understanding the Bible, not just with the mind, but also with the heart. It includes a concise Bible commentary, important discoveries in archaeology, related historical data, church history, maps, and more.

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