

**Around The Conference**  
**Rebuilding in Southeastern Massachusetts**

by Rev. John T. Dale, SEMA Area Representative

*And when the builders laid the foundation of the Temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David King of Israel. (Ezra 3:10 KJV)*



*Rev. John Dale* In the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, we are concerned with building and rebuilding our churches. Here in southeastern Massachusetts we have seen two of our sister churches in need of dramatic rebuilding. Like the temple during the time of Ezra, these churches are in the process of a new beginning after a time of crisis.

**Central Congregational Church, Middleboro**

On Memorial Day 2009, a four-alarm-fire started at the Central Congregational Church in Middleboro. Fire, smoke and water damage to the historic church building were extensive, and the building was essentially gutted. My wife Kathy and I visited briefly with Pastor Smith and some of his congregation on that day as they thanked firefighters and began to remove items that were damaged, but salvageable from the gutted sanctuary.

Two of the first of very few salvageable “artifacts,” as the firefighters referred to them, were a large altar Bible and cross. The Word of God, the Cross, the pastor and congregation were saved from this conflagration, and God had all that he needed to begin the rebuilding! At one point even the old steeple of the church had to be removed and replaced for fear it may collapse from damage. This congregation literally faced a trial by fire; and, like the Israelites, chose to worship God, pick up their “hammers,” and press on in faith, believing that God would bless their efforts to rebuild for His glory.

The church has been ably pastored the last five and a half years by Rev. Bruce Smith, who let me know how thankful the congregation is to the Lord for working out all the details with insurance and plans for reconstruction and providing the funds needed from their insurance policy. In the meantime, God has provided a place for worship across the street in a gym building owned by Central Baptist Church. We continue in prayer for this congregation facing such a challenge. As the work continues it is hoped that worship can begin again in the completed building by either Thanksgiving or Christmas. How faithful is our God to deliver us!

**The Community Church of Medway**

A month or so after the fire at Middleboro, on July 2, a lightning bolt struck the steeple at the Community Church of Medway. The ensuing fire and water damage made use of the sanctuary impossible. Like Central Congregational, the people of the Community Church were having their faith tested, and they too responded with prayer, seeking God’s direction.

The first order of business was to find a place to hold meetings. The answer to that prayer came from the generosity of the local high school, which has been very helpful in providing space for the congregation. During the warmer months, the church, led by Senior Pastor Travis Bond, has opted to meet in a large tent, something very different for a traditional congregation, according to Pastor Carl Schultz, a member of the pastoral staff at Community Church.



Community Church of Medway

Pastor Schultz relates that the congregation has responded well throughout this process and is looking forward to being back in their traditional building by the beginning of October. Pray for the church as they finalize any changes that need to be made in compliance with all codes.

Community Church at Medway continues to wait on the Lord for the day that they will have finished construction and moved back in.

*(More pictures and conclusion of article on page 7)*

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## Completing the Works

by Rev. Dr. Stephen Gammon, Conference Minister



I have been reflecting a lot on “Completing the Works” God has prepared for us to do. This was the theme at our CCCC Annual Meeting in July, and this message is still simmering in my soul. As I get older I am more vividly aware that life is short, and we must be responsible stewards of the opportunities God gives us for fruitful ministry. Ephesians 2:10 is meant for all of us: *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared beforehand for us to do.* To God what we do matters!

James 2:14–18 reminds us that God holds us responsible for our works. We may read such passages and consider only their application to our personal lives. But God’s Word also reminds us that churches are responsible before God for their corporate works. The letters of Jesus to the seven churches recorded in Revelation 2 and 3 makes this point clear. In five of the seven letters the Lord specifically states, *I know your works...* In the Monday evening message I brought to the Annual Meeting this year, I spoke from the Lord’s words to the Church in Sardis as recorded in Revelation 3:1–6. Included were these words, which still speak today: *I know your works; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember therefore what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.*

We don’t know how all of the seven churches responded to His messages, but we have good evidence that the Church of Sardis responded in faith. Archaeological excavations of Sardis (Sart in modern Turkey) give clues. The most imposing building of the city was the temple for the Greek goddess Artemis. It was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC and was 163 feet wide and 327 feet long. Excavations found the sign of the Cross of Jesus engraved in many places throughout this temple, indicating that Christians eventually took over the building and transformed the city. It appears the Church of Sardis responded to the Lord’s Word to “complete” the works God prepared for them to do. Now, what of us? What of our churches?

All the messages delivered at the CCCC Annual Meeting can be accessed free of charge on our website. (Click resources, then audio, or just click [here](#)). In my Monday evening message I focused on five “owner’s manual instructions” given by Jesus to the Church in Sardis for completing the works God has prepared for us to do. We see them in the passage quoted above. They are wake up, strengthen

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what remains and is about to die, remember what you have received and heard, obey it, and repent. May the Lord help the CCCC! May He help our churches! May He help you and me, even as He helped the church in Sardis to “complete the works” He has prepared for us to do! Amen!



## Mark your calendar NOW for 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Conference

July 25–28, 2011

Crowne Plaza City Centre

Cleveland, Ohio



Please note pictures from the 62nd Annual Family Conference held this year in Springfield, Massachusetts on several pages of this month’s issue of The FORESEE.

# And The Spirit Fell

by Rev. Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:4)*

In looking at the accompanying picture you may guess that it was taken at a Pentecostal worship gathering. Not so! This picture was taken at the Annual Meeting of the New England Congregational Christian Fellowship. Hands raised,



worshiping God, filled with the Holy Spirit, experiencing the joy of fellowship in Christ. In New England of all places. Yes, God is on the move all over this great land of ours.

On a gorgeous May day at the Free Christian Church in Andover, Massachusetts, a good number of CCCC churches and pastors gathered for a day of inspiring worship, thought provoking seminars, delightful food and fellowship and a short but productive business meeting.

The theme for the day was "Relationship Evangelism." Long time CCCC pastor, Rev David Midwood brought the morning and afternoon messages. He contextualized those messages by leaving us with ten evangelism accelerators, all starting

with the letter "P." These accelerators define for us what relationship evangelism would look like in our New England context. It was an uplifting day as you can see in this photo.



One of the hats I wear for the Conference is Director of Regional Ministries. A goal of that position has been to encourage communication between the Regional Fellowships, to share ministry ideas, and discuss what ministry or fellowship events have been effective for the edification of the pastors and churches in a region. The New England Congregational Christian Fellowship certainly is a witness to us, and I encourage all regional fellowships to share with others what has been effective for them in the building up of the saints, and glorifying God through fellowship in their regions.

If your Regional Fellowship is hosting activities that are working well in your region, feel free to pass that information along to me and I will share it with the other regions.

(Terry Shanahan can be reached at [PASTORTHS@aol.com](mailto:PASTORTHS@aol.com))



*Scenes from the Annual Family Conference in July*

## A focus on people... An important part of the DNA of a healthy church plant

by Dr. Ron Hamilton, CCCC Director of Church Multiplication



We have learned that churches focus on different things as they go through their ministry life-cycle. Consultant Ken Priddy states that churches which are growing (Incline) are focused on vision. He goes on to say that churches that are in plateau (Recline) are focused on programs and churches that are dying (Decline) are focused on structure. While we learn much from this teaching about the focus of

a church's ministry, there are two primary issues that are missing in this dialogue.

First of all, all churches must be focused on our Lord Jesus Christ or they will fail to be effective. Jesus said to Peter, *I will build my church, and the gates of hades will not overcome it.* (Matthew 16:18)

The Church is the church of Jesus Christ. If there is not a primary focus on Christ, a church is simply a community organization. Our church multiplication and church development processes emphasize the importance of a focus on Jesus and obedience to His call to love God, love others, and make disciples.

It is also important for churches to maintain a strong focus

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on people and their needs. This is demonstrated in life of Jesus. The Bible says,

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Matthew 9:36-38)

The key measure of the effectiveness of a church's ministry is the transformation of people's lives to become active disciples of Jesus Christ.

New churches are effective in making new disciples because they are intentionally focused on people. A new church does not have a building, a budget or developed programs. The ministry is completely focused on people

who want to begin a ministry to reach people who don't know Jesus. An intentional focus on people is an important part of the DNA of a healthy church plant.

(Ron Hamilton can be reached at [Rhamilton@ccccUSA.com](mailto:Rhamilton@ccccUSA.com))

## Church Redevelopment for the Coming Year

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

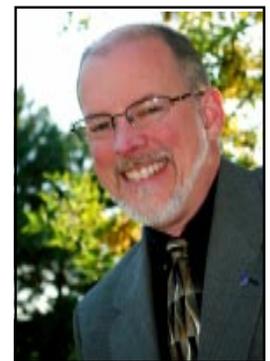
The Church Redevelopment Committee is pleased to announce that we will be launching four new training hubs this fall! While some details are still being confirmed, we plan to provide the full LifeFlow training sequence to cohorts of pastors and leaders in the following regions for 2010-2011:

- Rocky Mountains — Fort Morgan, Colorado
- Niagara — Serving Western New York and Pennsylvania (Location TBA)
- Midwest — Dayton, Ohio
- New England — Serving the whole Northeast Region (Location TBA)

Time is of the essence. As noted at this year's Annual Family Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, once the sequence begins, additional churches and pastors will have to wait until next year to take part. If you are interested, please contact the CCCC Office as soon as

possible at (651) 739-1474 and ask for either Nancy Bauman or John Kimball.

We are also excited about the release of our new Church Redevelopment DVD, *Rediscovering His Purpose*. It provides a 9-minute overview of the LifeFlow Redevelopment process with testimonies from CCCC churches about their own experience with it (you can see a preview now



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**We are also excited about the release of our new Church Redevelopment DVD, *Rediscovering His Purpose*.**

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at [www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com)). The DVD will also have several short vignettes about specific Redevelopment issues that can be shown in meetings or even worship services to inform your congregation about LifeFlow.

Look for it with your Annual 2010-2011 Church Survey!

# Samuel A. Worcester, the Cherokee Messenger (Part 1)

by Alwyn York, Conference Historian

Missionary Samuel A. Worcester went to prison for defending the rights of the Cherokee people against the state of Georgia's attempts to take their land. He was vindicated by the Supreme Court, only to have the court's decision defied by President Andrew Jackson.

As we are marking the bicentennial of the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions this year, it is fitting to remember Worcester's life, since he was sent as a missionary of that board. Although this may seem strange to us today, missions to the native peoples of North America were conducted by this board for "foreign missions" until 1883.

Samuel Worcester was born in 1798 in Peacham, Vermont, where his father was a pastor. He came from a family with a long history of dedication to the Lord's work. Samuel was a seventh generation pastor. His uncle, also named Samuel Worcester, was the first "Corresponding Secretary" (the C.E.O.) of the American Board and died on a visit to the Cherokee mission in Brainerd, Tennessee.

Our subject, the younger Samuel Worcester, graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1823 and was ordained at Park Street Church in Boston on August 25, 1825. Just six days after his ordination he left for the Cherokee Mission in Tennessee with his new bride Ann, who was officially designated an "assistant missionary." He remained on the mission field the rest of his life, returning east only once, in 1856. Even that trip was undertaken not out of a personal desire to visit New England, but in an effort to improve the

health of one of his daughters.

Samuel and Ann began their work at the Brainerd, Tennessee mission station, and after three years moved to New Echota, Georgia, the capital of the Cherokee nation. He worked on translating the Bible into Cherokee, using the new Cherokee alphabet developed by Sequoyah. He assisted his close friend Elias Boudinot, in publishing the *Cherokee Phoenix*, the first Indian newspaper in North America. Boudinot was a Cherokee educated at the Foreign Missions School in Cornwall, Connecticut. The Cherokees gave Worcester an honorary name which means "The Messenger." The house occupied by the Worcesters in New Echota has been restored as a state historic site.

The Cherokees showed great openness to assimilating customs and institutions of white Americans. Many had adopted Christianity. They had flourishing farms and well-built homes. Most dressed in European style. They had their own constitution and government, modeled on that of the United States. They were avid readers. By any measure, they were a "civilized" people according to the standards of the time. But none of this moved their white neighbors to respect their rights.

The story of how Samuel Worcester became a prisoner of conscience for trying to prevent the forcible removal of his Cherokee friends from their ancestral homeland will be told in part two of this article next month.

(Alwyn York can be reached at [AlwynY@aol.com](mailto:AlwynY@aol.com))





(continued from page 1)

### Under Construction

Perhaps you personally or your congregation are going through a time of rebuilding or construction? Under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, the people of Israel were able to rebuild their lives and re-establish their worship during desperate and difficult times. It seems if we are honest that we all go through times of tearing down and rebuilding, times of calamity and times of stability. If you've not experienced those times yet, be assured that they do come.



Central Congregational Church, Middleboro

Read through James chapter one or Ecclesiastes 3 sometime this week to reassure your heart that God is aware of your circumstances. In fact, James 1 tells us that these trials and testings WILL produce a stronger faith and character shaping that pleases the Lord, as we yield our problems and trials to God and allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort and lead us in obedience to Christ.

Middleboro and Medway are shining examples of what God intends for all of us, you see, when this work is completed, they will be better than ever and more equipped to accomplish God's plan for them and

their communities! May God strengthen us to His work.

(Rev. John Dale can be reached by e-mail at [jtdmac@juno.com](mailto:jtdmac@juno.com))



Community Church of Medway

## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes:

Pasadena, CA	Lake Avenue Church (Pastor of Adult Ministries)* Walter Alexander	
Kulm, ND	First Congregational Church *	Ray DeLaurier
Treynor, IA	Zion Congregational Church *	Adam Magill
Lowell, OH	St. John's Evangelical Church *	Don Hart

### Pastoral Openings:

Pomfret, CT	First Congregational Church *
Buffalo Center, IA	First Congregational Church *
Paul, ID	Ebenezer Congregational Church *
Rockland, ID	Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Chelmsford, MA	Immanuel Church *
Peabody, MA	Second Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Atlanta, MI	Big Rock Congregational Church *
Traverse City, MI	First Congregational Church (Ind.)
Thompson Falls, MT	Community Congregational Church *
Goffstown, NH	Goffstown Congregational Church (Ind.)
Berkshire, NY	First Congregational Church *
Lake Grove, NY	First Congregational Church of New Village (Youth & Music Pastor)
Middletown, NY	First Congregational Church *
Scotland, SD	United Church of Christ (UCC)
Suffolk, VA	Cypress Chapel Christian Church *
Wilton, WI	Faith Congregational Church *

\* = Conference member  
+ = In process

## Health Tips

### Sapped

With the barrage of information that comes to us each day, it would be easy to become overwhelmed by all of the e-mail, voicemail, phone calls, faxes, internet, billboards, radio and TV stations, to name but a few sources of daily information.

A meal is served in reasonable portions from different food groups. Data is like food and needs to be portioned out in our daily lives so we can digest it properly.

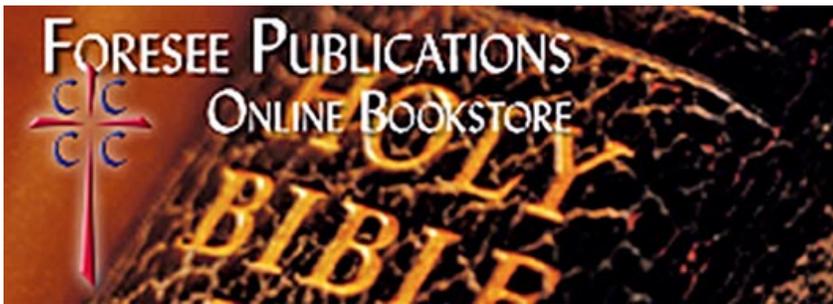
Some studies show there are physical symptoms of addiction to this overload of information, including increased cardiovascular stress from elevated blood pressure, confusion from conflicting reports and knowing which ones to rely upon.

Become aware of the time you spend each day with technological gadgets and discover ways to decrease the time spent with the devices. Some ways to find time are to turn off the TV, develop a hobby that will keep you from checking for e-mail, texts, etc., every few minutes, limit phone time, avoid endless web and channel surfing.

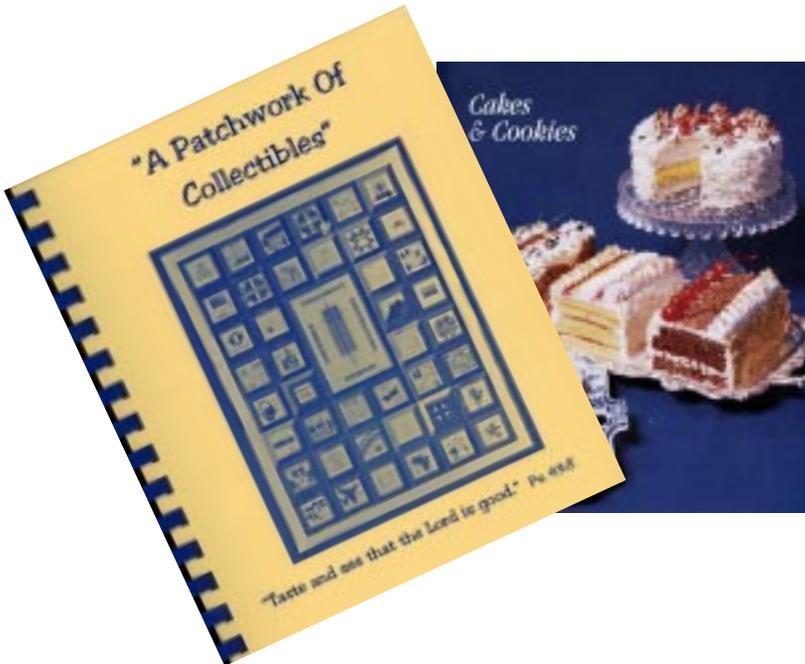
The time you save with a few simple changes will allow you more family time, long overdue lunch with friends, and better communion with God through prayer and Scripture reading. Keeping focused on your job and relationships will improve your overall wellbeing.

Source: [www.gdrc.org](http://www.gdrc.org); [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)

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



*Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3*



## ***Vintage Cookbooks***

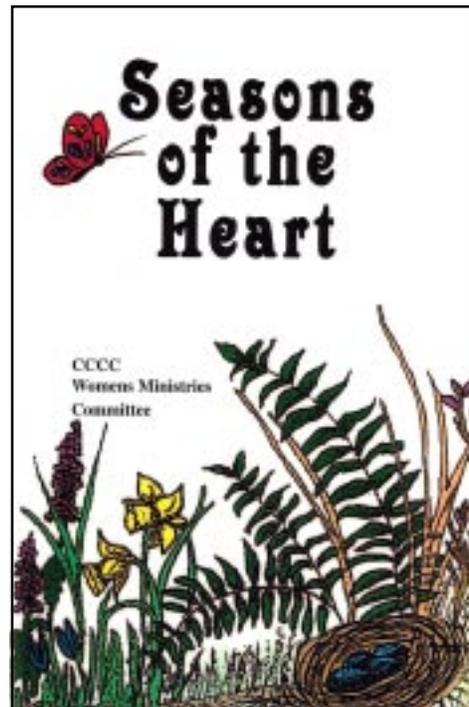
**Vintage 50th Anniversary Cookbooks For Sale. Price is \$5.00 + shipping**

To order, contact the CCCC Office  
651-739-1474

## ***Seasons of the Heart***

Written by the CCCC Womens  
Ministries Committee

Price is \$5.00 + shipping  
To order, go to [www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com)



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