

Around the Conference

The Lord is at Work in Wisconsin

by Keith Hunholz, Area Representative for Wisconsin

Recently, I've been thinking about some amazing words that Jesus shared with His disciples just before going to the cross. He explained the relationship that He has with the Father: "Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?" Then He shared how we can have the very same kind of relationship with Him. "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12) These greater things are possible because of the blessing of the Holy Spirit living in us, and the privilege of prayer. As we pray, our Lord will do, in and through our lives, the same kinds of things He did when He walked this earth many years ago.

Here in Wisconsin, a number of our CCCC ministers meet together every other month to share together in fellowship, to pray, and to be blessed as our Lord does His works in and through our lives and the ministries of our churches and missions. The Midwest Indian Mission is a CCCC Mission that is located in Crandon, Wisconsin. Don and Teleka Dewing were called to this ministry among the Chippewa and Potawatomi Indians in 1976. Their purpose is "to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in establishing churches, conducting Vacation Bible Schools, Bible camps, Bible study classes, and preaching services." But like the ministry of Jesus, they not only teach and proclaim God's Word, they allow the love and power of Jesus Christ to be evident in and through their lives. Don shares:

"Wasmogishek Pantry, opened in February 2009, is growing every month. We are now serving 545 families representing over 1630 people! God has been continuing to meet the need for food and resources.

"The New Hope Shelter and Transitional Housing opened its door on August 2, 2010. We have now had over 1000 shelter nights (one person for one night is a shelter night) in the first six months! The need is far greater than we ever knew. We are asking God to continue to meet the needs of the homeless shelter."

As the love of Christ is experienced, it opens doors to share how Jesus Christ can bring forgiveness of sins and transform lives. Don and Teleka have been blessed to see many transformations.

Also in Crandon, Bill Farr serves as pastor of Praise Chapel

Community Church. He and his wife, Sjana, have also seen the Lord do great things. Their little church was growing, and in 2002 attendance reached the point where the old church could no longer hold the number of people who wanted to come. They were able to purchase land from the city, and the church voted to move ahead. But they decided not to borrow money. They would move ahead with the new building as the Lord provided. God has honored that decision and the new church building is nearly completed at this time. Bill is currently working through the process of becoming an ordained minister in the CCCC.

Pastor Dan Gibson of Winneconne Christian Fellowship writes: "God is at work in a powerful way in our small congregation. When I arrived at this work eight years ago, there were fourteen steadfast people — we've grown to over 110 families. Our AWANA group started four years ago with very humble beginnings — eleven children. That group has grown to over 80 — 60% of those kids come from outside our church." The church is planning to begin construction of a new church building in April or May of this year.

The people of First Congregational Church in Hartford, served by Pastor Doug Livingston, have seen the Lord work in a different way. "We are blessed to have with us for the second year Dan Hummel as our Associate Pastor. Dan has been our worship leader for many years and now assists Pastor Doug in the church's teaching ministry through a course in systematic theology and a study of Romans. He also fills in for Doug during his weekly studies. Dan is applying for Licensed Minister standing in the Conference and hopes to be at the Annual Conference in Cleveland with his wife, Terese, and their four children: Joshua, Caleb, Hannah and Malachi. I hope you will get a chance to meet these special people who have been a real blessing to our church."

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The Opportunity of Change

by Rev. Dr. Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister



This is my first article since I was appointed Conference Minister by the Board of Directors. I am humbled by this appointment and am aware that this is a part of change that we are experiencing as members of the CCCC. New leadership is emerging with my appointment and the upcoming elections at the 2011 Annual Conference. The Board of Directors appointed a “guiding coalition” of CCCC leaders to address areas of change that stem from our commitment to church multiplication and church redevelopment. The face of the CCCC is changing as we become more urban and multi-ethnic.

I recently read this in the book, *Leading Congregational Change*, by Jim Herrington, Mike Bonem, and James Furr, as the authors address the issue of change:

“Spiritual and relational vitality is the life-giving power that faithful people experience together as they passionately pursue God’s vision for their lives. Individuals and congregations long to experience that kind of power.”

The authors go on to say that such vitality stems from a consistent teaching of Scripture.

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:35–40)

I am encouraged that we will find the spiritual and relational vitality to embrace change because we are committed to be a conference where people live in obedience to Jesus as they “love God, love others, and as they go, make disciples.” The challenges presented by change provide an opportunity for us to grow in our faith and in our relationships with one another. We cannot rely upon past spiritual experiences. We cannot assume upon the unity of our fellowship. We are challenged in these days to trust God as never before and deepen our relationships within the Conference.

I ask for your prayerful support as I seek to strengthen my walk with God and rely on my relationships in the Conference as I assume this leadership position. I will

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pray for you as pastors and churches, to experience the spiritual and relational vitality to obey the call of God on your lives.

About 120 Pilgrim Hymnals available free. Contact Immanuel Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado.

Humble Yourselves

by Tim McDonald, pastor of Biola Congregational Church, Biola, California

Humility is scarce in our homeland. Power and pride rule the landscape. Where is a humility that places the needs of others before one’s own needs? Humility dependently looks upon God to satisfy our deepest cravings. Yet, as far as one can observe the horizon, none are humbling themselves before God. Deference to another is drowned out by the cries of a demanding and prideful spirit.

Lawmakers flee the state not in the humility of democracy but in the manipulation of a power play. Athletes hold out for the multi-million dollar contracts not in the humility of fairness but in the indulgence of greed. Teachers picket and refuse to

teach not because they are humbly looking out for the best educational interests of their students but because they are looking out for their own best financial interests. Parishioners defend sacred cows in their church not because they are humbly protecting glory to God alone but because they are protecting their glorious traditions that fuel their unholy pride... The world and sadly even at times the church celebrates might as right. Power equals prevailing. Pride trumps humility. However, as followers of Christ, we are to celebrate humility. A humbling of the soul equals a heart ready to worship God and depend on His grace alone.

May All Go Well With You

by Rev. Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. (3 John 2)

As I visit churches in the Northeast, I often become aware of new and innovative ministries that are effective in their local context. I often share these ministry ideas with other churches and pastors and store them away for my own use, should I ever be called back to a local ministry setting. I feel for the church who would have me come and foist fifty random ministry initiatives upon them, many of which may not be a useful fit in their particular community. The Holy Spirit will surely guide me with restraint.

In February, 2010 I was made aware of a ministry that would appear to be beneficial for a majority of our churches. I felt it would be helpful to mention it here. Drawing parallels from the well-known Parish Nursing Ministry, championed by Betty Mitchell, and highlighted often in this publication, on February 8, 2010 the Church Council of the Church of the Apostles in Coventry, Rhode Island unanimously endorsed the selection of Sharon Galloway, RN to be the Health and Wellness Minister of the church.

In their own words, "The Health and Wellness Ministry at the Church of The Apostles has been designed as a faith community

nursing model that focuses on health promotion and disease prevention and the intentional care of the spirit within the context of our congregation's values, beliefs and practices. The hope of the Health and Wellness Ministry is to connect the several health care professionals who are members of the Church of The Apostles with each member of the Congregation through community involvement, and to provide social support to the Body of Christ, as well as to provide education, counseling, resources, advocacy and prayer. An additional goal of the ministry is to promote healthy lifestyles (in body, mind and spirit), encourage preventive measures, and embrace the interdependent relationship between good health and authentic worship of the living God."

In practice the ministry is dynamic, as I have heard testimonies of its effectiveness, not only in care and prevention, but in the true deepening of people's faith. Perhaps you have health professionals in your church with a heart for Christ who are looking for just the right ministry to use their gifts. There are very few churches who would not benefit from such a ministry.



Christ-like Community... CCCC 63rd Annual Family Conference July 25–28, 2011



Come July 25, as we gather in Cleveland around the theme, "Christ-like Community...", we expect the presence of the Holy Spirit to bless our fellowship with that very thing.

Dr. Ken Swetland, Senior Professor of Ministry at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, will teach in the Morning Bible Hour each day.

Evening speakers will be Stephen Gammon, former Conference Minister, Mike Chong Perkinson, Senior Developer of The Praxis Center, and Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister.

At the Women's Luncheon, our ladies will hear Barbara Weller, an attorney with the Christian Law Association and Gibbs Law Firm in Seminole, Florida.

And at the Men's Luncheon, the men will hear the Ohio State Buckeyes head wrestling coach and Fellowship of Christian Athletes representative Tom Ryan.

We will also hear from Conference president Larry Wood at the Thursday morning Communion service.

So now you know about the speakers for the conference. But it is not only about speakers. There will be the renewal (or beginnings) of fellowship, things to see in and around Cleveland and on the way there (if you drive), and dozens of

seminars of personal interest and of help in your ministry.

There is also not only a children's program and a youth program, but this year we are also adding a special young adult program. Friendships are to be made and encouragement to be received as we gather this year.

What will all this cost? Good question. The following are costs for this year's Annual Family Conference:

- Registration — \$135.00 per person (same as last year)
- Registration, if not staying at the Crowne Plaza — \$150.00
- Children and youth coming with their parents — \$10.00
- Youth attending without their parents — \$65.00
- Daily registration — \$50.00
- Room rate — \$99.00 per night
- Parking — \$8.00 per 24 hours
- Ladies' and Men's luncheons — \$22.00
- All Conference Breakfast (Wednesday) — \$16.00

So plan now to come to Cleveland. Whether you need rest or encouragement, information or challenge, prayer fellowship or new friendships, join us July 25–28 beside Lake Erie at the Crowne Plaza City Centre in Cleveland, Ohio.

From Church Multiplication — “Survival of the Species”

by Dr. Ron Hamilton, CCCC Director of Church Multiplication

The following is an excerpt from the book, *The American Church in Crisis*, written by David Olson. Dr. Olson spoke at the 2009 Annual Conference in Waterloo, Iowa. (Used with permission)

“Extinction. The word creates a deep sadness, a feeling of tragic loss. The dodo bird was a large, comical, flightless bird that weighed up to 80 pounds. When its environment changed quickly, the dodo was unable to adapt. Dodo birds were first discovered in 1508. By 1681 the dodo was extinct.

“Why does extinction occur? It is a complex question. Extinction occurs most often when a species faces a crisis of change in its environment and is unable to adapt. Survival comes down to simple math: the number of births must outnumber the deaths for a species to survive. When deaths outnumber births, the species goes extinct.

“The American church lives in an ecosystem and in its own right can be called a species. The long-term survival of the church can be evaluated by the number of new churches born each year that survive and prosper, by the health and reproduction rate of established or ‘adult’ churches and by the number of churches that close each year.

“The American Church Research Project has developed benchmarks for the ‘healthy denominational’ species. In this profile, 16 percent of the denomination’s attendance come from churches under 11 years of age, 36 percent of its attendance come from churches 11 to 40 years old, and 48 percent are from churches over 40 years old. The critical factor for the health of any denomination is the successful birthing of new churches. Without new birth, the species has no other option but to decline and eventually become extinct.

“Two factors will determine the future of the American church species. The first is the health and growth of its established churches; whether they thrive and reproduce or diminish and close. The second is the fertility rate of the American church; whether new offspring survive and flourish, replacing closed churches as well as providing new churches for new Americans.”

Praise the Lord! The CCCC has a future. We are living in obedience to Jesus to love God, love others and as we go, make disciples. We are building healthy disciple-making communities through our efforts of church multiplication and church redevelopment.

Discipling Others

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

We’ve talked about the necessity of discipleship before, but it is so core to the Christian life, that it bears more treatment. It is not unusual for me to be leading a *LifeFlow* training hub and to hear someone say, “I don’t know how to do this... no one ever did this for me.” It’s a sad but true testimony to the state of much of American Christianity.

So how do we disciple others? This article cannot give a complete answer, but here are some pointers on where to begin:

1. Pray with them — regularly — spending time praying together is a non-negotiable of authentic discipleship. And be sure to lead them to intercede for their respective communities as well. God gives us His heart for ministry through prayer and intercession.

2. Study the Word with them — focusing on obedience — it is one thing to teach them what the Bible says; it is quite another to teach them to obey it! Spend time walking out faithful obedience to what you cover together. It will bless you both!

3. Help them discover their Divine Design for ministry — don’t just review their spiritual giftedness; help them to also see how their life experience, personality and natural talents all help form them toward

fruitful ministry in a particular area. People come alive when they minister according to their divine design!

4. Work on the Spiritual Disciplines together — there are some great books on the spiritual disciplines. Spend some time reading and applying what you learn together, focusing on areas that may need some growth.

Neglecting the disciplines weakens our connection with our Lord.

5. Encourage them to begin discipling others themselves — no discipleship is truly fruitful until the disciple begins discipling others. When appropriate, help them begin investing in others for the sake of the kingdom. Every believer should be intentionally investing into others (2 Timothy 2:2).

Again, this is not an exhaustive explanation by any means, but it is a great way to begin the process. If you’d like more information on discipling others, why not plan to join one of our *LifeFlow* training hubs. The next sequence should begin in early 2012.



Micronesia Ministry Trip — September 2011

Chuuk, Micronesia, (formerly called Truk and often still listed as such on maps), is in the southwestern part of the Pacific Ocean in the Caroline Island chain. Chuuk has endured many hardships and trials in its developmental history. Even though it played a major role in the outcome of World War II, it is still unknown to most people. Because of its relative obscurity it has not received the attention and mission support that many parts of the world have enjoyed.

Teens Involved Ministries has made several mission trips to Micronesia. Each of these has met with excellent success and each was well received by the many participants involved in our various ministries. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, children's and youth workers have all benefitted from these efforts. Ministries have included pastor training, Sunday school teacher workshops, soccer camps, preaching and teaching, music ministries, and more. Through these opportunities we have seen pastors encouraged, teachers trained and prepared for ministry, and many come to Christ as Savior.

TIM is looking for a long term ministry impact from the upcoming mission trip in September of 2011. Once again we hope to work with both pastors and teachers; but this time we want to make greater inroads with the future generations of islanders on Chuuk. This team will be specifically targeting the current and future young people of Mizpah Christian School. We will have many ministry opportunities directly with these students as we teach the Bible, present the Gospel, share in English classes, and much more. However, the biggest project of them all, and the one that will likely have the greatest long term impact, will be the development of a Christian library for the school.

The library will host Bibles, books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and many other educational tools for use in the school. It will also make many wonderful resources available for the pastors and teachers of the island. Many will be able to access books and study materials that have never before been available to this degree on Chuuk. The team, currently being assembled, will provide the manpower to set up and fill the library. Books and resources will be shipped throughout the next several months and will be onsite when the team arrives. We will build the shelves, prepare the books, fill the shelves, and train the staff on how to maintain and handle the books. By the time the team departs, the library will be up and running to service all on the island who desire the opportunity to grow through the rich resources that will be established there.

A school library is something that many of us would take for granted. Not so on the island of Chuuk. The school is in desperate need of a good library, well-stocked with learning resources. A good education is an important matter anywhere, but on Chuuk it is vital to the futures of individuals and the nation. It is a nation of youth. The median age is 22

years, while more than 34 percent of the population is 14 or younger. With an unemployment rate of 22% and over 26% of all people living below the poverty line; it is no wonder that the migration rate from the islands is 21%. The island needs well educated and qualified individuals to lead the way to a brighter future. More importantly, we want to see a godly leadership rising up from the classrooms of Mizpah. The majority of students coming into the school do not even have access to a Bible of their own. How will a generation of life-impacting leaders come out of a situation that does not include God's Word? The library will not only include first rate books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other great educational resources, it will include many copies of God's Word and the spiritual resources to study and apply it to life.



Plumeria, common in Chuuk

We are excited about establishing a first class library for the use of Mizpah students as well as area pastors and Christian workers.

Much is yet to be accomplished, and the opportunities to be involved are many. You are invited to pray for this project and its success to the glory of the Lord. You are also invited to join the team. If you would like to go along and help with your hands on the work of the library or in the heart-to-heart outreach to the dear folks of Chuuk, please consider signing on with the team. Perhaps for you, at this time, it is more practical to simply offer to help with the collection of the books needed for the library. A long wish list of books and resources is available for folks that would like to help meet this need with one or more of the items on that list. Of course there is also a need for financial assistance to purchase books and materials, shelving and library hardware, to pay for shipping, and other expenses involved with this ministry.

Whatever your level of participation, you are investing in the today of the people of Chuuk as well as their tomorrows for years to come. Much time and effort will be put into the individuals with whom we will have ministry on this trip. Our prayer is that this investment will make a real difference in their lives. But the library will continue to bless folks for years after we have left the island. The life-enriching materials will be there for all to share and benefit from for generations to come.

For more information and questions about how you might become involved or to get a team member application contact TIM through the information below:

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(Another in a series on Eminent Congregational Christians by Alwyn York, historian for the CCCC.)

Jedidiah Morse

Jedidiah Morse played a key role in preventing the Congregational denomination from drifting quietly into Unitarianism. His writing and activism mobilized Trinitarian Congregationalists and forced the Unitarians to openly declare their true beliefs.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century many Congregational clergy, especially those along the eastern seaboard, were moving away from the Biblical faith of their forebears in favor of what they considered broader and more liberal views. Some kept to the old Puritan faith, but no separation between the two groups had occurred. In Boston itself all the pulpits of the Congregational churches except that of Old South Church were occupied by liberals. There was a deeply established tradition of pulpit exchanges in the Boston area, and it would have been considered a severe breach of etiquette to refuse to exchange. As a consequence liberals and conservatives frequently exchanged pulpits, and ministers tried to preach sermons that would offend no one. No one seemed willing to disturb the peaceful surface that concealed a growing division.

It was Jedidiah Morse who finally dared to bring the conflict into the open. As pastor of the church in Charlestown, Massachusetts, he was on the board of overseers for Harvard College. He tried to prevent the appointment of Henry Ware, a Unitarian, as professor of divinity at the college in 1805. When this effort failed, he published a pamphlet explaining the reasons he had opposed Ware's appointment.

Soon after this he founded a magazine, *The Panoplist*, to defend the orthodox Biblical position. He served as editor of this magazine for five years. It became the most important publication of the conservative Congregationalists. The close association between Evangelical theology and the missionary spirit is shown by the fact that the *Panoplist* merged with the *Massachusetts Missionary Magazine* in 1808. It became the *Panoplist and Missionary Herald* in 1818 and became the official voice of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1821. As the *Missionary Herald* it continued publication until 1950. (Early issues of the *Panoplist* may be accessed on Google Books.)

Even after Jedidiah Morse sounded the alarm about the spread of Unitarianism, the liberals continued to insist that the departures they might have made from the faith of their forefathers were moderate and non-destructive. Morse finally was able to document their true beliefs. In 1815 he published *Review of American Unitarianism*. This contained a chapter from the biography of a prominent English Unitarian

which had been published in London, which enthusiastically told of the progress of Unitarianism in America and contained quotations from some of the Boston liberals. This was far more revealing than anything that had been published in America. The liberals were furious at being exposed, and William Ellery Channing, who would become the leading voice of the Unitarian denomination, issued an outraged reply.

Jedidiah Morse was also active in other important enterprises of Evangelical Congregationalists in his day. He was very involved in the organization of Andover Seminary as a training ground for Biblical preachers and missionaries. In 1811, before any Abolitionist societies were formed, he assisted a number of blacks in their efforts to migrate from Boston to the English colony of Sierra Leone. Before any tract societies were formed, he personally saw to the publication and distribution of thirty thousand tracts on the American frontier.

Morse has also played an important part in another field besides religion. He is remembered as "the father of American geography." While serving as a school teacher before becoming a pastor, he found that there was no up-to-date and reliable textbook available on the geography of America. He took it upon himself to remedy this deficiency and published *Geography Made Easy* in 1784. He published a revised and expanded work called *American*

Geography in 1789. He continued to research and revise his geographical handbook throughout his life. It went through twenty-two editions by 1820, and was the standard textbook in schools throughout the country.

He faced difficulties in his pastorate in Charlestown. In 1815 a group within the congregation who were unhappy with his conservative activism withdrew to establish the Second Congregational Church in Charlestown. Even the Biblically orthodox members of his church seem to have felt that his pastorate suffered because of all his outside interests and activities. After receiving a letter from twenty-five members of his church calling for the dissolution of his pastoral relation to them, he submitted his resignation in 1819.

After leaving the pastorate, he conducted a tour of the northwestern frontier on behalf of the U.S. government to investigate and report on the condition of the Indian tribes of the country and make recommendations on how their situation could be improved. He died in 1826.

Jedidiah Morse had a son who would become far more famous than himself. Samuel F.B. Morse revolutionized communication by his invention of the telegraph.



Proposed CCCC Leaders' 2011 China Vision Formation Trip

In the spirit of the 2010 CCCC theme, "Completing the Works," following is a proposal which will provide a unique opportunity to see China firsthand and answer questions you may have.

PURPOSE: to learn about China and God's work there today; to learn of opportunities for service and to 'catch a vision' for future ministry to Chinese people (in China, America and elsewhere).

PLAN: to visit selected locations in both urban and rural settings in China; to meet with people serving long-term in China, including city ministry to migrant workers and to children; to observe and assist a short-term team as they teach conversational English and American culture with rural high school teachers and students in northwest China; to learn uniqueness of and special considerations necessary for effective China ministry.

Where: Beijing, Shanghai, rural China

When: 12-15 days in July 2011

Cost: \$1,750, plus visa & airfare

Description: Observe, experience life in urban and rural China. Visit, pray at historic sites: Great Wall, Tiananmen, Summer Palace. Worship at International Fellowship. Meet American professionals (tentmakers), local believers, migrant worker families. Travel to inland provincial capital; visit Ethnic Minority Museum, local mosque; observe short-term team teaching English and American culture to rural high school teachers. 'Catch' vision for future ministry to Chinese in America and abroad.

For more information contact Rev. Paul Foss Sidmore

Phone 978-777-5126;

e-mail Paul.Sidmore@gordon.edu

Promotions to Glory

George Buhl died on January 25, 2011, at the age of 94. His memorial service was held Mayflower Congregational Church in Kingston Massachusetts on February 26. He was a CCCC member since 1961. He pastored the Mayflower church for over 26 years, served and was chair of the Credentials Committee for many years, President of the Conference from 1978-1981.

Rev. Robert J. Phagan died February 11, 2011. He was born December 9, 1950, joined the CCCC July, 2003. He pastored the North Woodstock Congregational Church, Woodstock, Connecticut since 2001. He is survived by his wife, Joyce.

Rev. Warren E. Mason died February 6, 2011. He was born in July 10, 1923, joined the CCCC November, 1978. He pastored Wildwood Chapel in East Canton, Ohio for four years and Carthage Union Church in Carthage, Maine for three years. He also served as the interim pastor of Good Shepherd's Cove in Kennebunk Maine. He is survived by his wife Janice.

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes:

Goffstown, NH

Goffstown Congregational Church
(Independent) Bob McKenney *

Pastoral Openings:

Brighton, CO

Buffalo Center, IA

Paul, ID

Rockland ID

Blandford, MA

Chelmsford, MA

Foxboro, MA

Addison, MI

Hazen, ND

Wellington, OH

Scotland, SD

Zion Congregational Church *

First Congregational Church *

Ebenezer Congregational Church *

Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *

First Congregational Church *

Immanuel Church *

First Baptist Church

Addison United Church

New Bethel Congregational Church *

Pittsfield Community Church *

United Church of Christ (UCC)

* = Conference member

+ = In process

Health Tips

Mouth

Oral cancer appears as a sore or growth that does not go away. The cancer can be located on the lips, tongue, cheek, floor of the mouth, soft or hard palate, sinuses or throat.

Anyone can develop cancer of the mouth, but the risk is higher if you are a male over 40 years of age, use tobacco or alcohol or have a history of head or neck cancer. Sun exposure is a risk factor for lip cancer.

It is important that you regularly check your mouth once a month for signs and symptoms of oral cancer. Some symptoms to look for include patches inside your mouth or on your lips that are white, a mixture of white and red or red, a sore on your lips or in your mouth that won't heal, bleeding in your mouth, changes in your voice, a lump in your neck, pain or difficulty swallowing.

If you notice any of these problems, contact your dentist for diagnosis. Not all of the symptoms will be cancer, but need to be evaluated.

Often the diagnosis is made in the late stages of the disease and may be more difficult to treat.

You can lower your risk by avoiding tobacco products and alcohol. Use lip balm when you are in the sun. Eat a well balanced diet of fruits and vegetables. See your dentist regularly.

Source: <http://my.clevelandclinic.org>,
www.oralcancerselfexam.com

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

Heaven Is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. Psalm 115:3



ISBN#: 9780849949203
MSRP: \$16.99
Sale Price \$ 10.99 Plus shipping
FORMAT: English Trade paper
PUB DATE: November 2, 2010

Just two months shy of his fourth birthday, Colton Burpo, the son of an evangelical pastor in Imperial, Nebraska, was rushed into emergency surgery with a burst appendix.

He woke up with an astonishing story: He had died and gone to heaven, where he met his great-grandfather; the biblical figure Samson; John the Baptist; and Jesus, who had eyes that “were just sort of a sea-blue and they seemed to sparkle,” Colton, now 11 years old, recalled.

Thomas Nelson, the book’s publisher, said it had broken company sales records. The publisher, based in Nashville, began with an initial print run of 40,000 copies. Since the book came out in November, it has gone back to press 22 times, with more than 1.5 million copies in print. On the New York Times best-seller list for paperback nonfiction last Sunday, “Heaven Is for Real” was No. 1. The book remains in the top spot.

Much of the book’s success has been fueled by word of mouth, since it did not begin with the usual best-seller channels: there has been no elaborate book tour, big-name publisher or brand-name author. But it has gained traction with a few well-placed appearances on the morning show “Fox & Friends,” “The 700 Club” and CNN.

I have several copies available here at the home office. Please call or e-mail me for your copy.

Gayle ...

For more help planning, pricing, and information for your 2011 VBS, please visit us at www.nsresources.com. Please remember to mention that your church is a member of the CCCC to receive your discount.

Check out the publication website at www.cccusa.com for more information. When on homepage click on the Foresee Publications Online Bookstore LOGO.



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