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AROUND THE CONFERENCE

A Few Highlights from California

by **Stephen Sloat**, *CCCC California Area Representative*

As He is working His purposes out around the globe, here in California our God is at work in and through the lives of His faithful servants. The following are a few glimpses into some of God's good work within this diverse region.

Adding to the ranks of CCCC ordained ministers (once the credentials process is complete), Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena fully examined Brady Rentz for ordination as a minister of the gospel of Christ. This examination included a vicinage council composed of several pastors from the area including two retired and one current Navy chaplain, former Area Representative Marv Eyler, plus yours truly and Steve Morgan. That is important, because Brady intends to become a chaplain in the US Navy, hoping to serve on active duty. On June 1, 2013, Brady was ordained in a special service immediately following Lake Avenue's Saturday evening worship service.

Down the coast at Carlsbad Community Church (CCC), Pastor Alvin Helms just returned from a short-term mission trip to Micronesia. While there for two weeks he taught through the Gospel of Matthew in two different Morning Star Institute classes directed by Pastor Max Vague. It was a great experience for Alvin, who recommends that any pastor who has an interest in teaching a class contact Max Vague, the director of Morning Star Institute. CCC recently experienced the loss of their children's ministry director Saskia van Leeuwen, who had served CCC for twelve years.

Before coming to Carlsbad, Saskia served with Pastor Ray Ortlund at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. They are still grieving the death of this dearly loved leader. Over the past year CCC launched several new outreach ministries in the community. Members have been involved in a broad range of ministry opportunities including the following: serving food and leading services at the local rescue mission, a new job-seekers' support group, a ministry to support military families in the area, a food bank ministry that serves the poor in their community, and an event hosted by several Christian therapists who attend CCC called, "My Therapist Sez!" While some things



Brady Rentz's Ordination

change, CCC continues to be focused on loving their neighbors across the street and across the seas. This November CCC will celebrate its 89th birthday!

Up north in the city of Biola (yes, this name originated with Bible Institute of Los Angeles, now Biola University), Biola Congregational Church (BCC) has learned to tap the power of prayer. A few weeks

CALIFORNIA (cont. on page 11)

CM COMMENTS

The Priority of Prayer

Ron Hamilton, *Conference Minister*



As I have stated in previous articles, I have been reading some of the early issues of the Congregational Christian Beacon in preparation for the 65th anniversary celebration of the CCCC in St. Paul, Minnesota next month. This newsletter laid the foundation for the beginning of our Conference, which was officially formed in 1948.

In this reading I have found some humorous and interesting things about the life of the Conference in these early days. I read things such as,

- “Subscriptions must be paid promptly henceforth.” — *human nature does not change!*
- An article on the fall election and corrupt politics — *history repeats itself!*
- An ad from a dentist in Hancock, Minnesota — *why didn't we think of that one?*

While such things give us insight into the spirit of this new and developing fellowship of believers, there is one thing that stands out that describes the devotion of the founders of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference — they were deeply committed to a life of prayer and devotion. The monthly editions included a section entitled, “The Secret Place,” which comprised daily devotional readings. The front cover of the May 1943 edition featured a poem, “How Powerful Is Prayer?”



I believe that delegates at an annual meeting of the CCCC in its early days would have wholeheartedly endorsed the Seven Guiding Values of the Conference which flow from the priority of prayer. Our first value is “a culture of believing prayer and intercession.” This value has been found in the DNA of our Conference from its inception.

A life of prayer demonstrates a life that is dependent upon God. People of prayer seek God's will before their own and desire to live a life that honors the Lord each day. A community that prays is filled with the presence of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Generations have passed since the CCCC was born in 1948, but the spirit of the Conference has remained the same. We are people who love the Lord. We are dependent on His work in our lives each day. Our membership consists of believing people who seek the Lord in prayer and support each other in prayer. I am proud to have grown up in the CCCC and been a member of this Conference since 1970. But, more than that, I have been encouraged by this spirit of dependence upon God. I trust that we will

continue this great heritage as we move through our 65th anniversary. ♦

NE REGIONAL NEWS

God's Fellow-Workers

Terry Shanahan, NE Regional Minister

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

(2 Corinthians 6:1-2)

In the month of May, or a time more convenient for them, all of our churches are encouraged to designate a given Sunday as Conference Sunday. A bulletin insert is developed at the home office to update everyone, and it is provided to all of our churches. If your church doesn't remember receiving it, it is readily available on the CCCC website.

(www.cccusa.com/resources/conference-sunday-resources/)

It has been my distinct pleasure over the years to visit a number of churches on the given Sunday that they highlight the Conference. Usually, during a Mission Moment, the Conference bulletin insert is presented and depending on the length of time allowed, I will share specific items from the insert. Or as some churches have done, they will conduct a "man on the street" interview with me, giving time for questions and answers. Often a special collection is taken that day for the advancement of the Kingdom through the CCCC.

This has historically been a great opportunity for our Conference to maintain strong connections with our member churches. It never ceases to amaze me the type of responses I get and the type of questions that get asked. Some folks are very in-tune with the Conference and what we are about. Others quite frankly realize for the first time that their church is a member of the CCCC. But in the main, these Conference Sundays are very well received and are a boon to us all staying "Connected in Christ."

These past few months I have participated in a few Conference Sundays, oftentimes bringing God's message for the day as well as greetings from the Conference. I am excited to share about our current resources and our ministry focus. Our call to daily living and service to Jesus Christ is the CCCC way of life of "loving God, loving others and making disciples."

The Conference Sundays give me the opportunity to explain that our Biblical roots and values, though always present and strong, were not as clearly articulated as our Seven Guiding Values are now. The ministries of Church Development, Church Multiplication and Conference Care have all been developed in just the last few years. The commitment to stewardship, through the Sharing His Vision Campaign was not something we had done in the past, but allows us to expand His Kingdom through the Conference.

Look what God has done. God has done and is doing an amazing thing in our Conference. He is blessing us with needed resources. He is rewarding our obedience as we commit to a way of life that honors Him in all things. Truly, "Now is the time of Gods favor." ♦



Conference Resources

A reproducible
bulletin
insert update
of Conference
information

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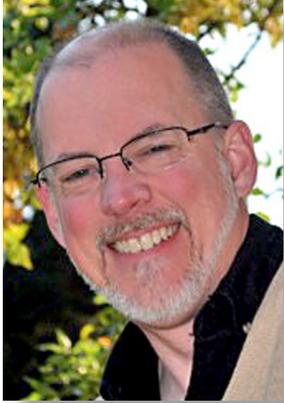
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CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

A Different Kind of Budget

by John Kimball, *CCCC Director of Church Development*



One of the interesting things I have seen as a local church transitions in the LifeFlow process is that the congregation's perspective on giving changes. Generosity often increases as God's heart and priorities again permeate the people. Nowhere is this more evident than in the church's budget and how it's prepared. This often happens in the following areas:

- **1. A Floor, Not a Ceiling** — as a congregation's life and ministry together begins to align more and more with mission, the view of their budget's purpose will often also begin to shift. When a church is sliding toward "survival mode," a budget is used to restrict spending. It provides a "ceiling" of how much may be spent under each category. But once the Spirit starts moving and the church begins to see fruit again, it's not unusual for budgetary attitudes to also transform. The budget becomes a "floor" — a set of faith-based minimums the church expects to spend for ministry.
- **2. Prepared in the Trenches** — another shift I have often seen is in the way the budget is assembled. Struggling churches tend to calculate the smallest possible overall increase they feel they can allow and then spread that increase over all the budget categories. Doing this often seriously limits key ministries, not allowing them to have the resources needed to grow (and ironically to increase the number of giving units in the church!). But when a congregation begins to experience new fruit and vision, budget development includes (or is done by) the people who are actually doing ministry in the church (i.e., the Children's Ministries Director outlines the needed Children's Ministry Budget; the Youth Director outlines the needed Youth Ministries Budget; etc.). Each contributor to the budget may still have to explain (or even defend) their plans, but even so this is a much healthier way of establishing ministry spending for the next year.
- **3. Ministry Focus** — directly related to #2 above, the entire focus of the budget begins to transform. When one looks at most churches, their budgets are very organizationally driven — the budget demonstrates that the priorities of the congregation are the staff and the building. But as the ministries begin outlining their own budgetary needs, even the categories in the budget begin to change. The clear focus of the budget becomes ministry, not overhead. It's at this point that something spiritual begins to happen, which leads me to my final observation.
- **4. Trust Shifts** — as ministry becomes the primary focus of a church's budget, familiar financial fears begin to give way to trusting God for provision. This last observation doesn't happen in many churches, but when it does it is usually an organizational evidence of real revival. Churches that allow their budget to focus on their facility, their staff and the maintenance of the "institution" of their church often have large sums of money invested away in accounts for various purposes. Some of these may be specialized — and others may have been designated gifts — but the bottom line is that they are considered "untouchable" because "the church must have something to fall back upon..." Please hear the gentle spirit with which I give this next thought: Many such churches are finding their financial security

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wooddale Church Calls New Pastor

(Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie and Medina, Minnesota became a member of the CCCC in 2003. Leith Anderson served as pastor for 35 years before his recent retirement. Pastor Anderson is president of the National Association of Evangelicals, and will be the Morning Bible Hour speaker for our 65th Annual Family Conference in July.)

The members of Wooddale Church have voted to call Dale Hummel as their next senior pastor. The vote was taken at a special meeting held Sunday, April 28. This historic vote was the culmination of a process that began 16 months ago on the retirement of Leith Anderson after 35 years of ministry at Wooddale.

Church Chair and Search Committee Chair Pat Mazorol said, "Dale Hummel is an outstanding fit for the ministry and culture of Wooddale Church. His overwhelming acceptance by the people of Wooddale demonstrates the power of his teaching."

He has over 30 years of senior pastor experience with a proven track record of leading church growth. He has studied under noted Christian leaders Dr. Stephen Olford and Dr. Haddon Robinson. He is a graduate of St. Paul Bible College (now Crown College) in St. Bonifacius, Minnesota where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Theology. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana.

Hummel is a dynamic speaker whose messages are grounded in the Bible. In addition, he is a consultant to pastors, churches and denominations — locally and internationally, and he has a strong commitment to missions "Here, Near and Far."

Dale Hummel met his wife, Marcia, a graduate of Chaska (Minnesota) High School, while they were both students at St. Paul Bible College. They have been married 33 years and have three grown children and four grandchildren.

Upon accepting Wooddale's call to be its next senior pastor, Dale said, "I am excited to join the leadership team of this great church in continuing to fulfill its purpose to honor God by making more disciples for Jesus Christ."

Hummel will begin his ministry at Wooddale later this summer after he fulfills other commitments and concludes his ministry at The Compass Church in Naperville, Illinois where he has been the senior pastor for the past 12 years. ♦



Dale Hummel

NEWS FROM MICRONESIA

A Season for Everything

by Gary Gardell,

Chair of the Micronesia Ministry Committee of the CCCC

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)



MIZPAH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The words of Solomon carry exceptional impact for some of us on the Micronesia Ministry Com-

mittee this spring. For a period of about fifteen years CCCC people served Mizpah Christian High School on Chuuk. Many Chuukese youth became followers of Christ and grew in their faith as dedicated people lived and taught in Weno, Chuuk.

Since 2008 we have not had fraternal workers in residence. After years of falling income we have used up our reserves, necessitating the end of our funding of Mizpah Christian High School on Chuuk. Since the beginning of our work at the school the support has been solicited by and directed to people. The Wilbers, the Chiles, the Gardells and all the short-term folks have raised the funds and reported to their supporters about the work. The last five years we have seen the support cease without “eyes on the ground” to oversee and report. The Micronesia Ministry Committee has prayed and worked, but for next school year we cannot pledge any set amount of money to Mizpah. If funds come in to the CCCC office designated for Mizpah they will be forwarded on, but the income over the last year does not allow us to pledge support to the school. There are still

funds in the Ralph Jackman Scholarship fund which will be given as the committee decides. Thank you for your faithful support these many years for Mizpah. If the Lord directs you to pray, give or go and serve, contact us and we will assist you in that.

NOTE: *Just before press time, more information about Mizpah became available. Watch for new developments in the next FORESEE.*



MORNING STAR INSTITUTE

In contrast to the ministry at Mizpah, Morning Star Institute seems to be in a season of growth. Rev. Max Vague continues to oversee the

training of church leaders as director. Your gifts to the Micronesian Ministry allow us to cover a small part of Max's expenses to do this vital task. Max has received more and more requests to schedule classes both in Micronesia and in the USA. A higher percentage of Micronesians live outside of their home islands each year. Morning Star Institute is in contact with churches in Guam, Saipan, Hawaii, Oregon, and Missouri. Micronesians are quick to organize worship anywhere they settle. God has given us a unique opportunity to assist them with biblical training through Morning Star. We ask you to consider supporting this ministry with your prayers and finances. If you have leaders with teaching gifts, contact Gary Gardell or Max Vague about teaching a class either in the States or in Micronesia. Our hearts are still committed to ministry to Micronesians at home and abroad. The seasons change but God remains faithful. ♦

AROUND THE WORLD

News from Haiti

(Karl and Ann Olsson are CCCC missionaries serving in Port au Prince, Haiti with Convoy of Hope. Following are portions of recent newsletters to their friends and supporters.)

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI —



Karl & Ann Olsson

We had a wonderful time attending a week-long meeting with Convoy of Hope (COH) in Springfield, Missouri at the end of March! We met with other international partners from Nicaragua, Bolivia, El Salvador, Europe, Kenya,

Tanzania, Ethiopia, and the Philippines. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to the reports of each country director — exciting things are going on! There was snow for a few days and most of these directors had never seen snow before, so Karl had fun throwing snowballs at them.

CONVOY GUESTHOUSE —

We have such a wonderful staff working with us at Convoy Guesthouse, and we are so grateful for each of them: Jude — guesthouse manager, Mme Marie, Mme Belize, Nicholi, Milot, and Geneste. It's been a "happening" place, with pastors, donors, and others who "come and see" what is going on. When people have visited schools and orphanages of COH services, they see other needs and want to help by sending work-teams. COH then decided to establish another guesthouse with its own staff, to host the work-teams coming down this year! We are very excited about this. We began our adventure with Haiti in 1984 by joining work-teams for many years before moving here. We understand how serving others in such desperate circumstances can change lives as it did ours..

AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE —

with Dr. Jason and four Haitian agronomists, it's going well as the rice harvests yield more and more each harvest. This helps these farmers to better sustain their own families and to put funds aside for new/better equipment and repairs. Other farmers are growing crops such as beets, beans, sorghum and watermelons with improving success. Another component is planting much-needed trees, for shade and to stop the soil from washing away with the rain.



WATER INITIATIVE —

This is a new initiative, and the link below shows the beginnings of this important component for the people. The story is that three Haitian men — Max, Eddie, and Babe — asked if they could talk to Karl about their desire to help a community of people in the countryside. Max lives here in Port au Prince, Eddie grew up in this community but found a job in PAP and now lives here with his family, and Babe grew up in the community and still lives there with his family. This community has a plentiful water source but the people are sick all the time. They want to help the people have safe and clean water to drink and for



HAITI (cont. from page 7)

cooking food. This initiative is especially exciting because talking with Karl was its beginning, and they are wanting to help their own people. This is wonderful! Of course we can help, but they are responsible for what they are doing.

One of COH's videographers created a blog from our humble photos, and we want to share it with you. Check it out, at <http://blog.convoyofhope.org/program-updates/a-very-welcomed-email/>.

FURLOUGH —

We will be in the States from June 19–August 28 and look forward to seeing our wonderful family, and many of you as well. Maybe we will see you at your church, or gatherings in homes, to thank you for your faithful support, sharing more about our work, and answer any questions you may have.



PLEASE PRAY:

- for someone to stay in our home while we're gone, as this is important.
- for the Convoy Guesthouse and the staff during our absence.
- for our speaking opportunities while on furlough:

June 30 - Community Bible Chapel, Brattleboro, Vermont

July 21 - Colrain Church, Colrain, Massachusetts

July 28 - Danville Baptist Church, Danville, New Hampshire

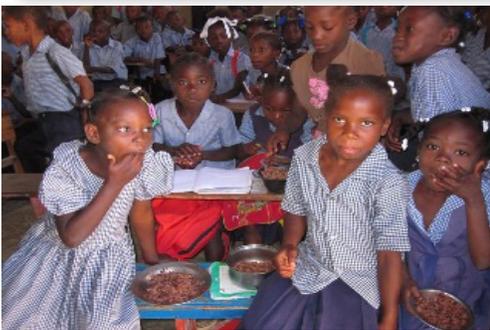
August 11 - Bedford Foursquare Church, Bedford, New Hampshire

PRAISES

- for those who support us financially and with prayers — THANK YOU!
- for both of us having good health.
- for wonderful people giving us housing in Vermont for the summer.

In everything let us give thanks to the Lord for His many blessings,
In HIM,

Karl and Ann ♦



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HEALTH NEWS

Music

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

Music has long been recognized to be a healer. Scripture reveals David played the harp to ease King Saul's depression (1 Samuel 16:2-4). Music therapy emerged in the 1950s and is gaining recognition as an aid in many treatment programs.

All ages can benefit from music therapy, children as well as adults.

People may forget many events or even how to speak, but familiar music seems to be something that is remembered for a long time. Families appreciate seeing their loved ones respond to music and be "themselves" even if it is for a brief period of time.

Children may calm down and manage difficult situations when they hear music. Children can be involved in many ways with music, from singing to listening and moving. It can encourage socialization and motor development.

Not all music will be comforting to each person. Selecting the right music for an individual or a group is done through a person trained in music therapy. If someone becomes agitated while listening to music, do not force them to listen.

Music therapy can increase effectiveness of movement in physical rehabilitation and can provide emotional support for patients and their families. Since music is normally nonthreatening, many people respond positively. It may prove to be a non-pharmacological way to manage pain and discomfort.

Music is a form of sensory stimulation for the elderly that can increase responses due to familiarity with the music and can provide a sense of security. Memory recall may be increased and changes in mood and emotional states may be observed as well.

In talking with the family, the music therapist will determine the type of music the patient enjoyed and can create music listening experiences for the individual and the family. A patient with dementia may respond to and interact with music, giving the family a positive memory of their loved one.

If you have a loved one you think might benefit from music therapy, be sure to talk to your child's teacher or the health care team for an adult family member. ♦

Source: www.musictherapy.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND READERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome your contributions!

If you have comments on what you read here, please e-mail them to kenandjoy@bellsouth.net.

If you have other comments or articles you wish to contribute, including "Something to Think About," please send them to the same e-mail address.

The 65th Annual Family Conference

July 22-25, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel

— *Riverfront* —

St. Paul, MN

THEME:

Being Changed

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

—2 Corinthians 3:18—

MORNING BIBLE HOUR: REV. DR. LEITH ANDERSON,

President of National Association of Evangelicals,
noted author & retired pastor of Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie, MN

MON EVENING: REV. DR. RON HAMILTON

CCCC Conference Minister

TUES EVENING: REV. ALVIN HELMS

Pastor, Carlsbad Community Church, Carlsbad, CA

WED EVENING: REV. DR. ROB O'NEAL

Founding pastor of Brookwood Community Church, Shakopee, MN
(CCCC church plant)

Ladies Luncheon:

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

SHIRLEY DUBEAU— "THE EMBRACE OF GRACE"

Men's Luncheon:

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Q&A WITH DR. LEITH ANDERSON— "ABOUT CHANGE"

Early Registration Discount

DEADLINE: JUNE 23rd

Register NOW at www.cccusa.com

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

Alexandria, PA Christ Reformed Church*
Angelo Valle*

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church*
Peoria Heights, IL	Peoria Heights Congregational Church* (<i>Youth Pastor</i>)
Seward, IL	Seward Congregational Church*+
Gardner, MA	Mission St. Congregational Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Haverhill, MA	West Congregational Church* (Worship Pastor)
Otsego, MI	First Congregational Church of Otsego*
Aurora, MN	Palo Congregational Church*
Cook, MN	Ashawa Chapel* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Mitchell, NE	Federated Church (Independent)
Scottsbluff, NE	Emmanuel Congregational Church*
Seabrook, NH	Rand Memorial Church*
Inwood, NY	Community Bible Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Scotia, NY	East Glenville Community Church*
Sardis, OH	St. Paul's Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Reynoldsville, PA	Paradise Community Church (UCC)
Warren, PA	Good News Community Church* (<i>Part-time</i>)
Woxall, PA	Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church (Independent)
Orwell, VT	First Congregational Church (Independent) (<i>Part-time</i>)
Hillsboro, WI	First Congregational Church*

* = Conference member

+ = In process

CALIFORNIA (cont. from page 1)

ago the congregation helped Pastor Tim McDonald and his wife Raquel celebrate their daughter's first birthday. Why is this significant? Just one year ago Raquel had a complete placental abruption. As she was wheeled away to the delivery room in a desperate condition, Tim began calling a few people from the church, knowing that they would begin praying. "I knew that our church softball team playing that night would pray. I knew that the prayer chain would be started. I began praying for the nurses who were shouting with traces of panic in their voices. This was bad! But I knew that earth would move heaven with our fervent cries." Their daughter had only minutes to be removed by emergency Caesarian section. The head nurse cried out with joy, "Praise God!" when she found out that their very tiny Elizabeth had been born alive. She weighed in at 3 lbs. 6 oz. and was two and a half months early at 27 weeks. Raquel had three emergency operations that night. She suffered what might usually be a fatal amount of blood loss.

That is not hyperbole! Agnostic doctors admit a miracle happened that night. It was a miracle that

we were even in the hospital when Raquel abrupted. Nurses came by the following days just to make sure that Raquel was truly alive. The McDonalds told them that she was given the gift of life and that Jesus truly saves. They learned that two of the doctors in the operating room had to wait for a third doctor for one of those emergency procedures. While they waited, one bowed her head. More prayer! The doctor told them that she prayed repeatedly that God would save Raquel's life.

BCC prayed Raquel through a long recovery. They prayed Tim through long days and sleepless nights. They prayed for their children when Mommy didn't come home from the hospital. They prayed for little Lizzie who stayed in NICU for two months. And they prayed joyful thanksgiving at the church luncheon celebrating Elizabeth's first year of life.

Thank You, God, for Biola Congregational Church. Thank You, God, for a church that prays for its pastor, his wife, and their children, and thank You Lord for the California Area of the CCCC! ♦

BUDGET (cont. from page 7)

in their accounts and not in the Giver of all things. And if there is anything that many congregations have learned since 2008, it's that such security is completely misplaced. More than one church has lost that security to our nation's economic collapse. But when Christ's ministry becomes the single, driving force behind a congregation's budget planning, trust begins to relocate! Trust moves from being in some thing (investments) to being in Someone! And the freedom such a shift brings to the whole church is amazing. The church is no longer in bondage to financial fear. The church begins to resource what the Holy Spirit is actually doing in her midst. And the congregation is now free to spend what the Lord has provided them to

advance the rule and reign of Jesus! It's a beautiful thing.

Who knew that the routine act of preparing the church's budget wielded so much power? Yet when the budget changes from what "we can do" to what "God is doing," it releases the congregation toward a deeper level of faith and obedience.

Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) ♦

The 65th Annual Family Conference

July 22-25, 2013

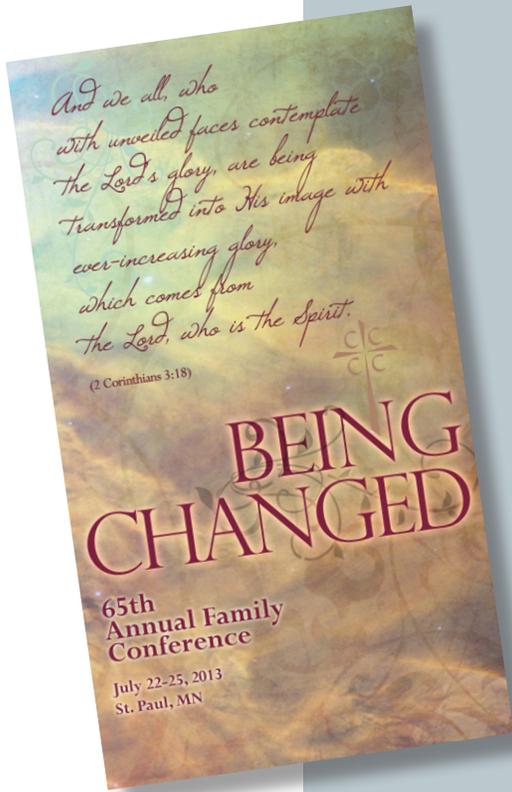
Crowne Plaza Hotel— Riverfront
St. Paul, MN

Early Registration Discount

DEADLINE JUNE 23RD

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See page 10 inside for more details!



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