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CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
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CONFERENCE

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## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

### Eastern Pennsylvania

by Rev. Dr. David W. McKinley, Area Rep for Eastern Pennsylvania

*But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all Thy works. (Psalm 73:28)*

God is doing some wonderful things in Eastern Pennsylvania. Sensing the need to be more connected, our regional fellowship decided to meet more frequently and celebrate the Lord's Supper as a regular part of our meetings. We now gather once per eight weeks at the Old Country Buffet in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. Check out our website at [www.easternpa4c.org](http://www.easternpa4c.org).

Among our member churches, God is blessing and sustaining our ministries, as well as preparing us for the future. For instance, at **Mount Bethel Church in McClure, Pennsylvania**, Rev. Don Wise has faithfully served for 20 years. The church has supported a new church plant in Cleveland, Ohio, known as City View Church. Mount Bethel also has an active Women's Aid group that sponsors children overseas and conducts a Vacation Bible School for the community.

**Seven Mile Road Church in Philadelphia** is a "Church in Development" with the CCCC. Last September, founding Pastor Ajay Thomas and congregation celebrated the four-year anniversary of their public launch. Most recently, Seven

Mile Road's leadership expanded to include two elders and one deacon. Five groups participate in their Gospel Communities on Mission, a small group program that emphasizes participation in local mission.

Lately, the church has been calling for attendees to become members. 80 individuals took part in nine-hour class (spread over three days). Baptisms have resulted and the congregation is growing.

In addition, a family was recently sent to India as full time missionaries, participating in Bombay Teen Challenge in Mumbai to fight human trafficking. The church, under Ajay's direction, is identifying themselves as a community of missionaries called to make a difference in the world. Learn more at [sevenmileroadphilly.org](http://sevenmileroadphilly.org).

**St. John's Church of Port Clinton, Pennsylvania** is nestled in the shadows of the Appalachian Trail. Amy Kirkpatrick became the pastor there almost four years ago after Pastor Shirley Breiner went on to be with the Lord. The past three and a half years

have brought healing to this small congregation, by God's grace. Pastor Amy marks the present time as a season of growth, faith and outreach. For instance, the congregation has rallied around a local young lady who survived a



Christmas Party at Seven Mile

## CM COMMENTS

## God-Sized Vision

**Ron Hamilton**, *Conference Minister*

I believe that God-sized vision requires God-centered faith and God-focused effort.

This conviction was recently put to the test when I met with the Church Multiplication Committee last month. We took a careful look at our vision statement and prayerfully discerned whether we wanted to keep this vision. A part of the vision statement says,

We believe that by the year 2020 over one-half of the member churches in the Conference will be healthy reproducing churches started by the CCCC in the 21st Century.

While it would have been easy to back off that statement, the Committee members restated their support of what God has done and will continue to do in the CCCC church multiplication movement in the future. This requires:

- 2008 – 10 newly planted churches (we reached this goal)
- 2011 – 20 newly planted churches (we reached that goal)
- 2014 – 40 newly planted churches (these new plants are in process)
- 2017 – 80 newly planted churches
- 2020 – 160 newly planted churches

I believe that I am a visionary person. But this seems like a daunting task. It requires a lot of faith to believe that this can happen in our Conference.

It will take a lot of work and a lot of money. The very nature of that vision caused me to prayerfully reflect on God's work in and through the CCCC in recent years.

After some reflection, I was reminded by the Lord of his provision for our movement in the past ten years. In 2004, many would have thought it highly unlikely that God would provide \$1.6 million for church planting in the next ten years. But, He has done that. The Conference received a bequest from the closing of the Phillips Church in Boston and \$1.2 million was designated for church planting. Another \$400,000.00 was set aside for church planting as a part of the Sharing His Vision comprehensive campaign. The CCCC church planting movement was small and struggling in 2004. Today we rejoice in the fact that we have 40 church planting projects that are established or in process. *Praise the Lord!*

This is only one example of many evidences of God's work in and through our Conference as we have focused on minds, hearts and efforts in living in obedience to Jesus and aligned our vision and values to reach this generation. God-sized vision requires God-centered faith and God-focused effort. Please join me in prayerfully trusting God for His leadership and provision for the CCCC in the coming days! ♦



## NE REGIONAL NEWS

# Healthy Pastors and Healthy Disciple-Making Churches

Terry Shanahan, *NE Regional Minister*



The Seven Guiding Values of the CCCC give us a direction and focus which we apply to our various ministries. These are pathways to fulfill the call God has revealed to us. In all areas of CCCC ministry we attempt to focus within these guiding values. Two of those

values, Healthy Pastors and Healthy Disciple-making Churches have been the focus of many of our Pastor Roundtable discussions here in the Northeast this past year.

The New England Congregational Christian Fellowship (NECCF) wants to emphasize this focus as they plan for their annual gathering. The NECCF has for decades ministered to the pastors and churches in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts and welcomes those from other regions such as Maine and Vermont and Eastern New York State to attend our gatherings.

Recently the Executive Committee of NECCF met at our hosting facility, First Church Boxford, to plan for this event. Some of the members are shown here meeting with Rev. Dr. David Midwood discussing the vision for the gathering on the first Saturday in May. David will be our event speaker on the topic Gospel-Centered Discipleship. Not only will David bring the two messages for the day but he will host a panel discussion with pastors from around New England that he has been mentoring. David loves to share the joy of mentoring pastors with a one-on-one relational connection. He has been in CCCC pastoral ministry for about 40 years, and he has mentored a

host of pastors, including friends from other church traditions. He also has experience in Pastoral Spiritual Formation through the ministry of Vision New England, where he helps direct the Pastoral Spiritual Formation process. He is currently serving as the Campus Pastor at Free Christian Church, our CCCC church in Andover, Massachusetts.

Many of you have attended the NECCF annual meetings in the past. This year we will offer a more focused experience with time for interaction, worship and testimonies. After the morning presentation and panel discussion, we will break for box lunch and gather into small groups for ongoing discussion on the topic of discipleship. After a brief business meeting, we will end the day with a second message from David.

The day will be filled with worship and song led by Kenny Laughters, and the praise band from Free Christian Church. It is our prayer that everyone who shares this day with us will depart having been nurtured in the ways of discipleship that lead to healthy ministries that honor Him. ♦

## THE NECCF ANNUAL GATHERING

will be held at First Church Congregational Boxford, 4 Georgetown Rd, Boxford, MA **Saturday May 3, 2014, 8:30am-3:00pm.**

## FIND REGISTRATION INFORMATION ONLINE AT

*www.*

*neccfonline.org.*



## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

## Living the Word

By John Kimball, *CCCC Director of Church Development*



The CCCC Church Development process is not a program. A program is something you implement over a specified period to learn a particular method or to accomplish a particular outcome. Instead, our process is really more akin to the total transformation of a church and her ongoing way of life (think “gene therapy”). What we teach has a starting point, but its implementation is ongoing.

I recently read Brad Young’s *Meet the Rabbis: Rabbinic Thought and the Teachings of Jesus*. This is a great book for many reasons, but one is the very point we are making. A rabbi’s influence is not to simply teach scripture, doctrine and history, but rather to rightly apply those things so that the disciple’s life is transformed. The rabbi’s emphasis is not on the knowledge itself, but on the outcome to which the knowledge leads: a changed life. For example, the rabbinical teaching about righteousness (and also Jesus’ teaching, by the way) is not just about a state of being that we inherit from God, but rather a tactical approach that leads a person to think righteously, act righteously and live righteously (e.g., personal care for the poor and widows). What the rabbi teaches is not fully “known” by the student until there is clear evidence in the way the student relates to and serves both God and fellow man.

American churches seem to rely on various programs for life and ministry. But programs are at best only

tools — they are never to be the focus. Our God-given focus is on the transformation of people. We have easy access to Bibles, various studies, theologies, commentaries and the like, yet see very little change within our congregations and communities. In some churches, there are folks who have been “saved” for decades and they are still just as spiritually immature and fruitless as the day they walked the aisle. People want the pastor to “feed” them rather than maturing to where they can “feed” themselves. Conflict and impurity are ever-present realities in most American congregations. And our society looks more toward Washington, DC for solutions and leadership than they do the Church. Why? Because our approach is often to teach people to know rightly rather than to live rightly.

The CCCC Church Development process is about transformation on many different levels. Its ultimate emphasis is on the impact the local congregation can indeed have on her community and world through the changed lives of her congregants. It’s not a 6-step or 13-week program; rather, it’s a total overhaul of the way a church applies the incredible truth of scripture and bears Jesus’ fruit.

*Want to know more? Why not give our office a call at (651) 739-1474. ♦*

## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

## How God Sometimes Blesses Obedience

By Larry Stroble, member of the CCCC Stewardship Committee



In 1976 when Lynne and I first got married, I was an intern at Park Street Church in Boston and she was working as an occupational therapist. At the time, I was making \$40 a week. That summer, we heard a message on tithing and we decided

to try it. After all, we learned that God is our Provider and we are stewards of everything that he has given us. In that sermon, the pastor quoted Malachi 3:10 where the Lord said: Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.' (Malachi 3:10-11). We later discovered Luke 6:38 where Jesus said: Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Though it was a stretch, we stepped out in obedience, trusting that the Lord would take care of us.

That fall, I became the youth pastor at a church in Cincinnati. One day when I tried to start my Vega station wagon, the engine groaned, and then it stopped. When I looked under the car, there was huge puddle of oil, and it became clear that the engine had frozen up. We didn't have any money to replace the car, but I shared my need with my youth Bible study, and they prayed for us. I also shared it with a men's group, and they also prayed. At the end of the week, someone handed me an anonymous gift of \$300. We later discovered that the church owed us \$1,000, and then someone else said, "If you buy a new car, we'll pick up the tab." I could hardly believe it! Now this kind of thing did not just happen once. It started happening over and over again.

One evening a woman called me and said, "Do you need any money?" I said, "What?" She said, "Do you need any money? I just received an inheritance and I was praying what the Lord wanted me to do with the money, and the Lord brought your name to my mind." I said, "Lynne, do we need any money?" She said, "Tell her we need \$1,000 to cover a car repair." That weekend, she handed my wife a check for \$2,500, which covered the complete cost of a motor job on my van. I couldn't believe it!

In my early years at Mt. Zion, all we ever talked about at the Board meeting was how we didn't have enough money to do the ministry. Then one day I said, "You let me raise the money. All I ask is that you support me when I preach four messages on stewardship each year and then ask Mt. Zion to either increase their giving, become tithers, or become liberal givers, giving over and above the tithe." I started doing that in 1990. I used John Maxwell's stewardship series as a guide and every year preached a series on stewardship until tithing became a core value at Mt. Zion. Each year a few more people began tithing, and over the last 32 years our giving has grown more than 20x. When I started in 1981, our church's income was about \$80,000 a year. Again and again, when things got tight, we have seen Lord intervene in our finances. He has done it so much that I have stopped worrying about our personal and our church finances. ♦

***Jesus said:  
Give and it  
will be given  
to you. A  
good measure,  
pressed down,  
shaken together  
and running  
over, will be  
poured into  
your lap.  
For with the  
measure you  
use, it will be  
measured to  
you.***

Luke 6:38



## WORLD OUTREACH

## Hearts in Haiti

by **Chris Surber**, *pastor of Cypress Chapel Christian Church, Suffolk, VA & Mid-Atlantic Area Rep*

My life is not my own. Of course, I've known and taught that for a long time. I've taught on 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 many times. But last year my wife pulled me to Haiti, where God pulled my heart out of my chest and broke it in pieces.

My life has always been His. Now it is His in Haiti. On that trip, Christina introduced me to an impoverished little girl on a dusty, trash-strewn hill in a little Haitian town called Montrouis (pronounced Mow-ee). Out of a sea of children, Carmelie came running to my wife. This little girl is being raised by her grandmother. Her mother is dead, and her father is nowhere to be found.

She remembered the love my wife had shown her a few months earlier on Christina's first trip to Haiti with a group of Christian women from Suffolk. She also remembered that my wife had given her clean, cold water. Carmelie saw my wife and said, "Dlo, dlo." That's Creole for "water."

This was only my second day in Haiti, and I was still in a mild state of shock over the trash, the shacks, the rubble, the filthy and the peniless state of affairs in this island nation.

My spirit was still reeling from seeing people living amidst garbage in a tent city as I rode on the back of a truck through Port-Au-Prince. My heart was still trying to adjust. I had to find the shut-off valve for my tears. My feet still wanted to run back to the airport, fly straight back to the comforts of Virginia and pretend I had never seen poverty of a scope that I couldn't fully fathom.

But I couldn't run. What I could do was to give this little girl some water. So I did. I pulled her to the side, away from the other children. I broke open my Camelback water pack and poured ice-cold, clean water into a large cup for her. She drank every drop. I hugged her and sent her back to the Bible class my wife was teaching for a ministry there called Empowering Haitian Moms. I hid my tears and sensed the presence of God in a way I had not known before.

Later, while sitting on the back of that same truck, I realized why giving that little girl some cold water was so moving. In Matthew 10:42 Jesus says, *And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of My followers, you will surely be rewarded.* (NLT)

It hit me that for perhaps the first time in my life I had ministered to someone in absolute purity. There was no pretense, no veneer, no trappings, no nothing — just me and a little girl and a cup of cold water. I said, "Here, drink this water! Now go back to Bible class and receive the Bread of Life!"

That week in Haiti changed me forever. God showed me the reason for the unrest my wife and I have felt in our hearts for the past few years and the reason for our increasing passion for global evangelism.

**There's the background. Here's the next chapter of the story.**



Sometime during the first few weeks of 2015, my family and I will relocate to Montrouis, Haiti, where Christina and I have accepted an invitation to pastor the Montrouis International Fellowship. It is an English-speaking fellowship of followers of Jesus composed mostly of missionaries to Haiti. We will serve and shepherd and encourage the missionaries who are there pouring their lives out in Jesus' name.

We will expand the ministry of MIF to encompass more of the local Haitian community. I will develop a ministry of mentoring and training Haitian pastors. My family and I will come alongside our partners at the Agape House Children's Home (an orphanage) and partner with them in that work. We will also stay awake to the Spirit's leading for other ways we can support our ministry partners in Haiti.

### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT.

We have incorporated a ministry for Haiti called "Supply and Multiply." The Lord directed us to 2 Corinthians 9:9–11 as we sought a vision and a name for the ministry: As it is written, *'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'* *He who supplies seed to the sower and*

## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

## The Nineveh Project

One of the top priorities of the CCCC over the past several years has been church multiplication. Toward that end, we have an annual meeting called “The Nineveh Project.” This year’s Nineveh project will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul from September 29–October 2.

The Nineveh Project is an annual gathering of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference with the purpose of equipping, training, coaching, and releasing churches and individuals to plant churches. In the book of Jonah, we see a prophet called to the great city of Nineveh where God wanted to reach a culture and city that was lost. Our hope is that our conferences will be used by God to call people to the Ninevehs in our day, and to raise up a generation of people who will be faithful in loving great cities.

For more information, go to <http://theninevehproject.com/> ♦

## 66th Annual Family Conference

JULY 21-24, 2014

“FOR EVERY GENERATION” PSALM 33:11

*From Local Arrangements Chairman:*

**Bob McKenney:**

The Northeast regional team has been preparing to welcome you to Rhode Island in July. We’re excited about many changes to this year’s conference, which we hope will serve to equip and minister to our Conference churches and credentialed individuals.

Our theme, “For Every Generation,” flows throughout the week and works itself out in many tracks and workshops. We’ve also aligned our time together with the CCCC’s three major areas of focus, Conference Care, Church Development and Church Multiplication. There will be opportunities to hear about the work God is doing, and to think about how you might bring what you learn back to equip the saints at home for the work of ministry.

Our Rhode Island venue has provided us with opportunities to visit Newport, Federal Hill, the Roger Williams Zoo and other local attractions. The hotel is beautiful, comes with a free shuttle to the airport, local restaurants and shops, and has plenty of free parking. I hope you’ll make plans now to join us in Rhode Island! ♦

HAITI *cont from pg 6*

*bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (ESV)*

We are looking for partner churches and individuals who sense God leading them to support our work financially and bathe it in prayer. We’ll be prayerfully seeking pastors and church leaders to do pastoral and leadership seminars for Haitian pastors and church leaders. We will welcome short-term missionary teams to participate in various kinds of missionary work.

I’ll make no bones about it. I need your money. But I want your partnership more. There is a Haitian proverb: “Si Bondye voye ou, li peye fre ou.” If God sends you, He pays your expenses.” I’m confident God will provide for what He has called us to do, but I don’t want anyone God calls to be part of this work to miss out on the blessing attached to it!

Last month my wife and I took our four children, ranging in age from one to eight, to Haiti to seek confirmation from God for His call on our lives. I was concerned about how they’d do in Haiti. I watched them make friends. I watched them joyfully play with kids who could almost seem to be from a different world. I watched God dismantle my last excuse not to be obedient to His call. God is calling us to Haiti. I wonder if He may be calling you to find some way to be a part of the work of Supply and Multiply.

To find out more about the ministry please visit [www.supplyandmultiply.com](http://www.supplyandmultiply.com).

“*We ou nan Ayiti!*” See you in Haiti! ♦



PENNSYLVANIA *cont from pg 1*

traumatic automobile accident. St. John's held benefit events and helped her in many ways.

Family dinners occur once per month centered on a particular theme. Folks who could not normally afford to eat at a restaurant are encouraged to come, and the fellowship is a blessing. The congregation has concentrated on building community, and attendance is up to 50-55 per Sunday. Younger people are returning and a new youth group has been started. Check them out at [www.stjohnspc.org](http://www.stjohnspc.org).

**St. Paul's Church of Stowe, Pennsylvania** is seeing the seventh guiding principle operating in their church: "A Membership Reflective of the Harvest Field's Diversity." Six years ago, Pastor Lenn Zeller sensed a burden to become involved with an after school Bible club at Barth's Elementary School. Today, over 60 children are participating in the club, and some are now attending St. Paul's Church from the nearby Bright Hope housing development. The program has become a strategic part of the church's outreach to the community.



Cambodian singing group at Snyder Avenue Congregational Church

Herb Anderson is the Senior Pastor of **South Philadelphia's Snyder Avenue Congregational Church**. Next year, the congregation will celebrate Herb and Sharon's 50th year of ministry with them. Snyder Avenue Church recently hired Associate Pastor David Grainge and his wife Lisa to develop outreach and pastoral care in the community. Many different ethnic congregations are holding their worship services at Snyder

der Avenue. Among them are Christian brothers and sisters from all over the world, including Burma, Nepal, and Cambodia. Praise God for the outreach and multicultural work taking place at Snyder Avenue Church! See them at [www.snydercongregational.org](http://www.snydercongregational.org)

**Christ Reformed Church of Indian Creek**, located in Telford, Pennsylvania, celebrated the ordination of Pastor Scott Nice within the past year. Pastor Scott just returned from a trip to the Holy Land. He also reports: "Here at Christ Reformed Church, God is blessing us as we partner with Child Evangelism Fellowship in reaching elementary age students in the Souderton Area School District with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have after school Bible Clubs at each of the five elementary schools. In addition, we have a weekly club that meets Tuesday evenings here at CRC to which all the clubs are invited. We have 80 non-churched kids coming on Tuesday nights for ministry. That's almost four times as many kids as we have in our Sunday school. We are fulfilling the Great Commission where and when the opportunity arises!" Web site [www.christ-reformed-church.org](http://www.christ-reformed-church.org)

**From Drehersville, Pennsylvania:** CCCC pastor Robert Burkey reports: "Immanuel Evangelical Congregational Church has been growing steadily with new members over the last year. We also were donated seven acres of ground which was much needed. Before this gift, we owned just a three foot perimeter around our church and a one half acre parking lot on the opposite side of the street.

In addition, we now have an active Women's Guild and for the first time we will be offering Vacation Bible Study in August of this year. Most recently, a young couple approached Pastor Bob about joining the church, which will necessitate membership classes.

The Holy Spirit continues to move among His church in Eastern Pennsylvania. We are blessed to be a part of His work in our region. ♦

## 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](mailto: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.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

# Who Walked on the Water of Galilee?

By **Ted Bradshaw**, retired CCCC pastor, former CCCC Board Member and Area Rep, author

## WHO WALKED ON THE WATER OF GALILEE?

See *Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52; John 6:15–27*

Facts: The Sea of Galilee is about 8.5 miles wide and about 13 miles long, and ringed with mountains and hills. Turbulent cross are created by cool moist Mediterranean air converging with hot, dry desert air. The distance the disciples were rowing between Bethsaida on the northeast corner to Gennesaret on the northwest was about 6.5 miles. Planning to go straight across, they were never far from shore, but the wind and waves were so strong that these experienced sailors were making no headway.

The disciples had most likely left the Bethsaida shore in time to arrive in Gennesaret before nightfall. They were still trying to get across in the fourth watch — 4 or 5 a.m. Probably they had long since furled their sails, useless in a contrary wind. Likely, they had been rowing (taking turns) for as much as 10 hours.

Why not just turn back? Experienced fishermen knew the danger turning side-to and capsizing in the high waves. There was also danger in turning stern to the waves. They could broach (the stern lift on a wave and together with the momentum of the oars, drive the bow under, and flip the boat over). The safest procedure for a small boat in high wind and waves is to keep the bow into the waves, hold on, bail and hope the storm blows itself out.

They had experienced terror while crossing in a storm (Matt. 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25), but had also experienced

Jesus' control over the elements. While they were likely aware of their danger and emotionally on edge, they had confidence they would arrive safely — eventually. Thus seeing Jesus doing what to them was impossible they naturally assumed it was — a ghost that could float over the water. The disciples were aware of the power of demons, and that frightened them more than the sea!

They could hardly believe him, when Jesus identified himself. Peter, the impetuous, said “Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water.” He believed that if Jesus could walk on water, and if Jesus wanted Peter to walk on water, then he, Peter, could walk on water. Against all the evidence of his years of experience on the water, Peter was willing to trust Jesus' word.

We don't know how far Peter walked away from the boat. It was far enough he could no longer grab for the gunwale of the boat. So long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he was fine. But his mind overruled his faith. When his attention shifted to the wind and the waves, his knowledge of the material world overcame his faith in the power of Jesus. Because of this, the water and the storm threatened to overwhelm Peter.

## WHO CAN WALK ON WATER?

**The power, authority, and abilities available to the believer:**

- Matthew 28:18 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- John 14:11–14 If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

- Romans 8:11–13 ...if you live according to the sinful nature you will die...
- Romans 8:15–17 ...we are God's children... we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...
- Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus

### What the believers in the New Testament did:

- Matthew 10:8 Jesus said, “heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.” See also Luke 10:17–18 The return of the disciples.
- Matthew 14:15–21 Feeding of 5,000 – Jesus blessed the food, the disciples participated in the multiplication of loaves and fish.
- Acts 5:1–10 Ananias and Sapphira condemned by Peter
- Acts 8:39 Phillip miraculously transported from Gaza to Azotus, - 20 miles
- Acts 12:5–11 Peter freed from jail
- Acts 19:11–12 Miracles by Paul

### Modern day believers:

Late 1960s revival in Indonesia as detailed in *Touched by Fire*. Believers had food multiplied, walked across a flooding river on top of the water, instantly healed after persecution torture.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Seattle — numerous documented healings — In a prayer meeting the man behind me had his deaf left ear healed; one woman had very bad teeth that were filled miraculously with gold.

See also *Nine O'clock in the Morning* by Dennis Bennett; *Face up with a Miracle*

WALKED ON WATER cont on pg 10

## REFORMED CONG FELLOWSHIP

## 2014 RCF Pastors' Conference

*The Reformed Congregational Fellowship involves some of our CCCC pastors and others. Co-Moderators of the group are CCCC pastors Paul Wanamaker and Kirk van der Swaagh.*

*The fellowship meets each spring in New England. We are pleased to announce their conference, that others in the CCCC may wish to know about it and participate.*

— Editor

We invite you to the annual  
**Reformed Congregational Fellowship Pastors' Conference,**  
 March 25-27, 2014  
 at the  
 Wonderland Conference Center,  
 Sharon, Massachusetts.

Six presentations by colleagues serving in the pastorate will be the stepping off point for a lively and collegial consideration of the Savoy's, "Of the Gospel, and of the Extent of the Grace Thereof."

Titles include:

- What is the Gospel Promise?
- God's Progressive Revelation of His Redemptive Purposes
- The Regenerative Power of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of the Old Testament: Its Content, Efficacy and Parity to the New Testament
- The Gospel as to the Substance of It: Preaching Christ, the Power and the Wisdom of God
- The Significance of the Gospel vs. Discovering God in His Works
- How God Uses Subjective Human Experiences in Bringing the Elect to Salvation

We hope you will join us.

Your fellow servants,

Paul Wanamaker & Kirk van der Swaagh ♦

WALKED ON WATER cont on pg 10

by Don Basham, *Something More* by Catherine Marshal, *They Speak with Other Tongues* by John Sherrill.

### Why doesn't it happen more often?

We suffer from a spiritual malaise brought on by materialism and scientism. We have been trained by parents, schooling, and life to believe only what can be independently verified by the scientific method. We have learned the "Laws of Nature" as if they are superior to the ways of God.

- We do not expect miracles. We expect the natural processes:
- Money comes from a paycheck;
- We travel by foot, auto or mass transit;
- We have healing over time, medicines, operations, we trust in doctors more than in God;
- We rely upon the government for a safety net, not Jesus

Jesus calls us to a radical faith that flies in the face of reason and common sense. He calls us to rely first, last, and always on Jesus alone for our salvation, lives, livelihood, and all our needs. He calls us to go boldly into the world and expect miracles! Jehovah Jireh!

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

When Peter got out of the boat, what did the other disciples do? I think they were yelling to Peter how stupid a thing he was doing. "Watch out!" "Look at that wave!" "You can't do that!" I think they may have contributed to Peter's taking his eyes off Jesus.

Jesus said, Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12) What did he mean?

We are taught by the Word of God to have faith and trust God for all things? Yet our skeptical minds usually don't trust accounts of modern day miracles. Is this good?

*What do YOU think?* I welcome your comments, and will be glad to publish them.

Send them to [kmcgarvey@cccusa.com](mailto:kmcgarvey@cccusa.com) ♦

Note: The article above was edited slightly for space constraints in this PDF. To read the article in its entirety, go to [www.cccusa.com/2014/03/something-to-think-about-15](http://www.cccusa.com/2014/03/something-to-think-about-15)

HEALTH NEWS

# Filtration System

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



Just like the filter in your coffee maker (or in a K-cup), our kidneys help filter out waste products, including drugs, and excess fluid from our bodies. The kidneys also help regulate our body's salt, potassium and acid content. Hormones are produced in the kidneys to help regulate red blood cell production and blood pressure, and to control calcium metabolism.

The kidneys are about the size of your fist and are located on either side of your spine at the lowest end of the rib cage.

About 200 quarts of fluid is filtered and returned to the blood stream each day. About two quarts of waste and fluid of urine is produced daily and excreted. Urine is stored in the bladder from one to eight hours.

Kidney disease may cause a decrease in the kidneys' ability to properly filter the blood, allowing wastes and excess fluid to build up in your body.

Some of the factors that may increase your risk for kidney disease are high blood pressure, aging, diabetes, family history of chronic kidney disease, being African-American, Hispanic-American, or American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander. Your doctor will know what blood and urine tests to order to monitor your kidney function if you fall into one of these categories.

Since diabetes is one of the leading causes of kidney disease, controlling your blood glucose levels will help keep your kidneys healthy.

High blood pressure can not only cause heart attacks and strokes, it can also cause kidney disease. Have your blood pressure checked regularly to be sure it is within the limits set by your health care provider to keep your kidneys healthy.

Adequate blood flow to the kidneys is essential for their health. Keeping your cholesterol levels within acceptable limits will help prevent clogged arteries to the kidneys.

In addition to limiting your salt and alcohol intake, select foods that are good for your heart: fresh fruits, fresh or frozen vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products. Losing weight and being more active will also assist in keeping your kidneys healthy. Cigarette smoking can worsen kidney damage.

Some warning signs of kidney disease include high blood pressure, blood and/or protein in your urine, altered blood kidney tests, more frequent or painful urination and puffiness around the eyes, hands or feet. ♦

Source: [www.kidney.org/kidneyDisease](http://www.kidney.org/kidneyDisease), [www.nkdep.nih.gov](http://www.nkdep.nih.gov)

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## PASTORAL CHANGES

- Haverhill, MA West Congregational Church\*  
Eric Lindahl (*Worship Pastor*)
- Haverhill, MA West Congregational Church\*  
Todd Becker (*Pastor to Children & Families*)

## PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Parkersburg, IA First Congregational\* (*Associate Pastor*)
- LaMoille, IL First Congregational Church\*
- Sulphur Springs, IN Sulphur Springs Christian Church (*Family Life Minister*)
- Douglas, MA Second Congregational Church\*
- Cook, MN Ashawa Chapel\* (*Part-time*)
- Norwood, MN Church of Peace\* (*Part-time*)
- Beulah, ND Beulah Congregational Church\*
- Berthold, ND Berthold Baptist Church (ABC)
- Taylor, ND Taylor Ecumenical Parish (AFLC)
- Scottsbluff, NE Emmanuel Congregational Church\*
- Scottsbluff, NE Plymouth Congregational Church\*
- Cambridge, NY Coila Church\*
- Inwood, NY Community Bible Church\* (*Part-time*)
- Beaver Springs, PA Christ Church (EFCA)
- Reynoldsville, PA Paradise Community Church (UCC)
- Orwell, VT First Congregational Church (Independent) (*Part-time*)

\* = Conference member  
+ = In process

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