

CM Comments

The “R” Word

by **Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister**

Early in his ministry, Jesus declared these words,

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15)



We agree that repentance from sin opens the door to forgiveness and a saving relationship with God. It is important to call people to repentance in our preaching and teaching. However, repentance does not end there. Repentance is an important part of a way of life in living in obedience to Jesus and discovering his will for our lives. James says,

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:7–10)

A humble spirit and a repentant heart draw us to God and Him closer to us. These attitudes and actions also open the way for the Lord to expand our ability to be used by Him as he lifts us to new opportunities for ministry in His name. Repentance should not be left at the altar of salvation. It is an attitude and action that helps us grow in our relationship with God and strengthens our relationships with others.

The Lord’s Prayer includes these words,

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. (Luke 11:4)

It is clear that repentance and forgiveness are a part of the regular cycle of life for followers of Jesus. We humbly see how we have failed God and others. We repent and seek forgiveness. We are then freed from these burdens and grow in our ability to know God and serve Him.

I have been encouraged by a growing spirit of humility and repentance among the leadership of our Conference. I have witnessed people repenting to God about things in their lives and ministries and openly seeking His forgiveness. I’ve seen people go to others and confess ways that they wronged them and ask for forgiveness. I have heard people acknowledge shortcomings in their work and ministry and asked the Lord to help them as they move forward. All of this has encouraged me to be humble and repentant. And this has paved the way for a new work of God in our fellowship.

The call to repentance should not be left to the evangelists. This is a call to all God’s people to humbly seek the Lord in a new and fresh way. We will be stronger and more useful for God’s work as He honors this spirit and these actions.

Church Development and Conference Care

Handling Criticism Well

by John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care & Church Development



I've experienced it myself. One's strength in pastoral ministry ebbs and flows. Sometimes these cycles are exacerbated by not spending enough time in personal prayer and worship. At other times they are circumstantial — like when one does not get enough sleep. And occasionally, those peaks and valleys correspond to external circumstances beyond our control. Over the last year, I have counseled more pastors (and parishioners, by the way) regarding pain caused by unkind criticism than ever before. I wish the Church acted differently than the world on this count, but the reality is that some Christians have a strong personality and/or a caustic tongue. And even when they truly desire their words to be constructive, they are sometimes more hurtful than helpful. So when difficult criticism is levied, here are some questions you can ask yourself to sort through the emotion and respond in a Christlike manner:

What is my own attitude at this moment (Romans 12:3)?

Who is doing the criticizing? What is their character (Proverbs 1:22)? What is their own spiritual condition (1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1)?

What might be their motives for the criticism? Is it truly for my good (Proverbs 27:17)? Or is it to control, harm or marginalize me (Psalm 41:5-6)?

Is there any truth in what has been said about me (Ephesians 4:15 vs Psalm 36:3)?

Once I have taken an inventory of my own attitude, of the criticizer and of the potential truth of their words, I can then make a decision on how to respond. Be careful: just because someone typically causes pain and frustration does not mean there is no truth in what they say. With my spirit in check (by His Spirit), and a clearer understanding of the person's spiritual condition and purposes, I can evaluate any truth provided and adjust my life accordingly, thanking them for their valid comments. It is only then that I can answer the last and most critical question: How can I best respond to this person in a way that honors Jesus and allows me to continue growing in Him? Sometimes, it's with gratitude. At other times, it's with correction and accountability.

No pastor is immune from the pain of unkind words. It is possible to process most criticism in life on our own, coming to a Christlike conclusion. Having a healthy framework like the above with which to do this can be very freeing. But when, for whatever reason, we experience pain, anxiety or frustration because of someone's words, it is then best to find a trustworthy confidant to help work through what was said together. Such a friend can help us see what we might otherwise miss, so that we can indeed grow to be more like Jesus even as a result of a harsh critique.

Saying Goodbye to a Mentor

by Rev Terry H. Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)



I recently gave the eulogy at the service of a dear friend and long time mentor. Hal was a medical doctor with a thriving practice. He was an excellent diagnostician, well respected by the community and his colleagues. He constantly gave of himself, doing all the school physicals, serving as team doctor for our high school football team, and volunteering with the Scouts and the American Heart Association. To indicate how well respected he was by everyone, he was the first medical doctor to be elected as a Trustee of our Regional Hospital.

But Hal's true calling was to be a mentor to men. As an Elder of our church, Hal became involved in the Men's Ministry. Serving on that committee he hosted weekly Men's Breakfasts, evening Bible Studies and regular Men's Retreats. I was fortunate to work with him in that Men's Ministry just about the time I was sensing a call to full time ministry myself. We began a mentor/mentee relationship that lasted for years. Hal with his busy schedule always had time to pour his life into others. His stated goal for the men's group that met in his home on Tuesday night was to challenge the men who said they loved Christ to live transformed lives. He constantly asked, "If you have Christ in your life, how is that making a difference in your marriage, your relationship with your children and in your workplace?" If we couldn't come up with answers, then we needed to question our commitment to the Lord.

As I reflect back on what made Hal a great mentor, a few things come to mind. First, Hal could look past someone's flaws and see the person that Christ wanted them to be. He understood man's frailties but could see the potential if that person would yield his life to Christ. Second, Hal was available. I am not sure how he did this with his schedule. I recall a time when I phoned to ask when we could get together, and he replied, "Why don't you come over to the house right now." Hal never put people off and he always made them feel welcome. Third, Hal was a great listener. I am sure that it is a trait that made him a great doctor, but it also made him a great mentor. Hal could take in a person's whole story without interruption and then parse it back, making sure he heard and understood it all. Fourth, Hal asked great questions. He was never quick to give an answer, or try to solve others' problems. Rather he asked probing questions that caused them to look at things from several different angles. We would come away with a greater understanding of the issues and most often discover the best direction to take. And fifth, Hal had a genuine love of people. The unconditional love he received from Christ, he displayed to everyone. If ever there was a model to living a lifestyle of loving God, loving others and making disciples, Dr. Hal Hoefle was it.

Having a mentor like Hal was a transforming blessing in my life. I thank God for him. Each of us needs a mentor like Hal. I pray you have someone in your life like him.

Around the Conference

Christian Education in the Heart of the North Dakota Oil Boom



by John Fanella, CCCC Area Representative for Great Plains

These are exciting times in Dickinson, North Dakota, and Hope Christian Academy is uniquely positioned to make a significant impact for the kingdom of God. Evangelical Bible Church (Tim Privratsky, Pastor), a CCCC congregation in Western North Dakota, is preparing to expand its Christian school in ways they could only dream of 30 years ago when they ventured into the

ministry of Christian education. Dickinson is currently on the southern edge of the oil boom. Jobs are plentiful, and the nation has taken notice. The city has grown tremendously as men and their families move into the area to find work. Research shows that the growth of the community has only begun. Hope Christian Academy is poised for such a time as this. Hope Christian Academy is a school of excellence in its 30th year of operation. The primary function of the school is to partner with Christian families who seek an education that is consistent with the Bible for their children. All teachers are born-again Christians and are committed to growing in the Lord. Most of the teachers at Hope have worked at the school for more than ten years. The curriculum is sound, the instruction is strong, and the Biblical influence is obvious in every classroom.

Hope Christian Academy enjoys great unity throughout the community of Dickinson. Pastors from several different churches currently enroll their children at Hope. Other churches have supported the school in a variety of ways, including advertising, donations and prayer support. Six different churches are represented on staff and the school board at Hope, and students currently attend fourteen different churches. Hope Christian Academy serves a great purpose in unifying the many Christian churches in Dickinson. Hope Christian Academy enjoys a strong working relationship with Dickinson Public Schools. Their students participate with the public schools in band and extra-curricular activities. Their friendships with the public schools are important to them. They have even had several public school teachers enroll their children at Hope. They are not in opposition to the public school. Hope simply exists to offer what is not possible in a public school: an education that is consistent with the Christian Bible and the person of Jesus Christ. God has blessed Hope Christian Academy with a strong Christian school in a growing community, and they believe that God has prepared them to take on some new initiatives. The demand for Biblically-sound education has increased to historic levels in their school. Hope has added staff and a portable classroom unit to meet the increased demands, but more needs to be done. They expect the demand for Christian education to continue to increase dramatically in the next few years. The following initiatives have been carefully considered and prayerfully begun:

Hope Christian Academy has started adding staff. Consistent growth in the lower grades indicates that the elementary school will double in students within a time frame of three to four years.

Hope Christian Academy will be adding a high school to the existing elementary and junior high.

Hope Christian Academy is currently beginning the process to expand its current facilities on the campus of Evangelical Bible Church. This project will provide adequate space to grow the elementary school, add a high school program, and improve their current programs.

The needs are great, but they are not greater than the resources of our God. Please pray for Evangelical Bible Church and Hope Christian Academy as they seek to meet the needs of Christian families who desire a Biblically-sound education. Also pray for the pastoral and administrative staff as they move forward with their God-given vision for Christian education in the heart of the North Dakota oil boom. The current staff is: Tim Privratsky (Senior Pastor). Ron Dazell (Associate Pastor), and Shane Bradley (School Principal). You can read more about Hope Christian Academy online at www.hcadickinson.org, and Evangelical Bible Church at www.dickinsonebc.com.

World Outreach

Greetings from South India.

from Tom and Rhonda

Praise the Lord we have survived another Indian summer! Monsoon rains have come and the extreme heat (110–115 degrees F) is over for another year. The elaborate garlands around our necks (pictured) were presented to us the first Sunday of our return back in February by our Indian church family. Actually they are wedding garlands. Since we had never received such garlands, they decided to honor us in this way.



We helped found St. Thomas ECI Church, an English speaking congregation that meets in the chapel of the ECI seminary nearby our apartment. We have maybe 10 families and about 15–20 medical and engineering students. Sometimes the attendance will go above 35 but most Sundays will be 25–30 people. Prayer groups and children’s Sunday School are held after the service. The Director of the seminary is the pastor. I preach maybe 30–40% of the time, especially when I am in the city and available. Rhonda plays keyboard and arranges the worship music every Sunday. We thank the Lord for this close and healthy faith family.

Again this year, I coordinated a three-day training event for all directors of ECI Bible schools and seminaries (13 total). This intense time with key leaders is the highlight of our year here in India. I initiated this back in 2009. It has become quite a treasured yearly tradition for the theological education people of the ECI.

Most of our directors battle discouragement with continual problems from lack of funds, poor facilities, few books, and sickness (malaria, typhoid, dengue fever and chicken gunya). Only six out of the thirteen schools have functioning libraries. Last year a grant from the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference provided textbooks for most of the students, a first in many years.

Encouraging and equipping these dear servants continues to be high on our agenda. In the coming months I will be coordinating several pastor conferences and workshops at seminaries. Continue to uphold us in prayer to stay healthy and spiritually discerning. Necessary funding is also a concern.

Your partnership with us in the Gospel is deeply, very deeply appreciated and valued.

Each month I update our secure website with personal praise and prayer items and financial information. Don’t forget, giving can now be done by cc on our main website www.fohglobal.com or by check using our address: Friends of Hope – Mission Acct, 2033 E. Kitchel Road, Liberty, IN 47353. We can be contacted at tcurry2@juno.com.

Grace and peace, Tom & Rhonda

God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. Psalms 67:7

RHONDA'S REFLECTIONS

It's a beautiful morning today. The sky is slightly overcast but still bright and the temperature is around 90 degrees. It's cooler now since the monsoon has set in. Whew!!

I'd like to share a "God moment" from two weeks back, in praise to the Lord. Tom and I had been away on an eight day trip. I returned home while he stayed in Chennai an extra day for a meeting. The following day I went to the supermarket to pick up a few items and replenish our food. As I filled the cart, I began to wonder how I would get the full shopping bags up to our apartment (second floor).

One month earlier I had been treated with a cortisone injection in my right wrist for tendonitis. Since then I've been careful not to overdo with my wrists, and Tom wasn't here to carry the heavy bags.

A young man from the store loaded the bags into an autorickshaw (our main form of local transportation). After I was seated in the auto, I prayed and told the Lord about my situation and desperate need. I asked Him to send someone there to help me with my bags. I felt an instant peace. It's about a five minute ride from the supermarket to our home. Upon arrival I saw no one around. No adults, no children, no one was present. My thought was "Ooooooo K" and I got out. Using both hands for the bags (one at a time), I sat them on the ground close to the auto, paid the driver, and watched him drive off.

When the auto was just a short distance away, I heard... yes, I heard children laughing. Across the street were four neighborhood children seated in a circle on the ground playing a game. They waved and yelled to me. I asked one of the older boys if he would help me carry the heavy bags up to our apartment. He did it gladly! I thanked him and offered to pay him, to show my appreciation, but he refused to take the money. Again I offered but he said, "no, no, no, Ma'am." He smiled and skipped out of the apartment.

I smiled and thanked the Lord for His answer to my prayer, and the way He answered it. The person I prayed for was there when I arrived home, at the exact moment I needed him. I just could not see him or hear him over the noise of the auto.

God, our heavenly Father, takes care of His children. He provides what we need in every situation, whether big or small. He wants us to know that.

Thank you for all the many ways you faithfully support us. We continually pray for you, that you stay strong in the Lord and live as an example of Him.

With love from India, Rhonda

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name goes all the glory for Your unfailing love and faithfulness. (Ps. 115:1)

Something to Think About

The Story of the Clothes Closet



by **Todd Evans, pastor of First Congregational Church,
New Haven, Michigan**

In the summer of 2011 I read the book *Outlive Your Life*, by Max Lucado. It really challenged me in the aspect of what I am **DOING** for my Christ with my faith. What difference was I making in the world that would outlast my life here on earth. He made a very important point: hardly anyone will remember us in 50 years.

People will remember what difference I made, especially through my church.

As a pastor, I have become known for sharing my challenges from books with my congregation so we can all suffer together!

In the fall of 2011 we started a series based on Max's book and coordinated it with our small group study on Sunday evening. The series and book had a similar impact on many in the congregation. They were challenged to think about what they were doing with their faith, whether their faith making a difference to the community around them. It had taken us many years of struggling through different issues, but God used this book to move us in line with our vision statement to be involved in the community around us. People started having different ideas of how we could make a difference — what could a church of 40–50 do in an area of 70,000?! Then we saw God start to show us He had been planning it for a while.



In the spring of 2011 our local food pantry had to close its clothing section because of the growth in the need of food in our community and space issues. At the time, we offered them the use of some unused space in our church for the clothing. That offer never went anywhere, the clothes never came, and the space stayed empty. Fast forward to October 2011.

One of the programs that came out of our series on *Outlive Your Life* was our Clothes Closet. This idea struck some in our church right in the heart, and they wanted to go with it. By November, we had a full room of clothes, shoes, coats, books, and other things and we opened to the public. We have donations come in from all over the area every week, and people coming from all over the area to get things they need. It has been amazing to watch it grow and flourish, and see God use the people of this church to impact so many. The people that volunteer are excited to come in; in fact some come in during the week to do extra work and invest much of their own money on things to improve it. Several months later, and many Friday afternoons later we are still going with no one burned out and having 5–15 families come in each Friday.



We feel God pushing us out into the community so that they can see that we not only preach the Word, but are trying to live it out to them also.

Eminent Congregational Christians

Henry Opukaha'ia (Obookiah)

by Alwyn York, Conference Historian

Henry Opukaha'ia (spelled Obookiah during his lifetime), a native of Hawaii, died in Cornwall, Connecticut in 1818 at the young age of twenty-six. He was one of the first native Hawaiians to become a Christian. He came to faith in Christ in America before any missionaries had been sent to his homeland. Despite his short life, he was to have a great influence on the cause of foreign missions. His public speaking and the influence of his memoirs, which were published posthumously, inspired the Congregationalists of New England with a vision for evangelizing the Hawaiian Islands. He began the work of translating the Bible into Hawaiian and compiling a dictionary and grammar book of the Hawaiian language.



He was orphaned at about the age of twelve as a result a war between different factions on the island where he lived. He witnessed the murder of his parents, and fled from the warriors while carrying his infant brother on his back. This brother was hit by a spear and died. The man who killed his parents became his guardian for the next year and a half. Obookiah had an uncle who was a native priest, and eventually he was allowed to live with him. He was schooled in the rituals of the priesthood so that he could eventually take his uncle's place.

He developed a desire to see the world. He wrote, "I began to think about leaving that country to go to some other part of the world... probably I may find some comfort, more than to live there without father and mother." When the sailing ship *Triumph* anchored in the bay, he went on board. The captain of the ship, Caleb Britnall, invited Obookiah along with another Hawaiian boy to stay for dinner and spend the night on board ship. The next day it was arranged for the two boys to sail along with the ship. (The other boy, who took the name Thomas Hopoo, became a fellow Christian and lifelong friend and later returned to Hawaii as a missionary.)

The Influence of Christians

While on the ship during the long voyage to America he developed a friendship with a Christian sailor named Russell Hubbard, a student at Yale College, who began teaching him to read and write, often using the Bible as his primer. Captain Britnall took him to his home in New Haven, Connecticut in the fall of 1809. Obookiah began to learn about God from some of the students at Yale College (which was a strongly Christian institution at the time). Obookiah developed a particular friendship with a Yale student, Edwin Welles Dwight, who would become his teacher. Edwin Dwight arranged for Obookiah to live for a time in the home of his cousin, Timothy Dwight, who was President of Yale. Obookiah was much impressed to meet, as he put it, "a praying family morning and evening." He also stayed with Rev. Samuel Mills of Torrington, Connecticut, whose son Samuel John Mills was a leader among the group of students at Williams College and Andover Seminary whose efforts led to the formation of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Obookiah's contact with his Christian friends and the Bible led him to renounce the worship of idols in which he had been raised and to embrace the Christian faith. He was taken under care as a student by the North Consociation of Litchfield County (Connecticut) in 1814 and joined the Congregational Church in Torrington, Connecticut in 1815. He studied diligently to improve his knowledge of English and the Bible. In 1814 he began efforts to translate the Scriptures into Hawaiian. He finally translated the entire book of Genesis into his native language. He also worked on compiling a grammar and dictionary of the Hawaiian language. In this effort he was helped by Professor Eleazer T. Fitch of Yale. He wrote the story of his life as an exercise to improve his command of English.

Beginnings of Foreign Missions

The Congregationalists of Connecticut developed a plan for evangelizing the world by means of training promising young men from various foreign countries to return to their home countries as missionaries. In 1816 Obookiah began a tour of New England aimed at building support for the planned school. His personal example did much to eliminate the prejudice that the "heathen" were too ignorant to be taught Christianity, and his passionate speaking about the spiritual need of those in his native country did much to stimulate interest and financial support for missions in many of those who heard him. Obookiah was part of the first class of the Foreign Mission School in Cornwall, Connecticut when it opened in 1817. Four other students in this first class of ten were also natives of Hawaii. His friend Edwin Welles Dwight was the first principal of the school. He was eager to return to his home country to share the faith he had learned with his people. Unfortunately he became ill and died of typhus fever on February 17, 1818.

Posthumous Influence

After his death, a little book was published which contained the life story he wrote as well as extracts from his diary and letters. It was edited by his friend Edwin Welles Dwight. The Memoir of Henry Obookiah went through twelve editions and sold over fifty thousand copies. It provided much of the inspiration for the sending of the first missionary band to Hawaii in 1819.

His body was buried in a hillside cemetery in Cornwall, where it remained for 185 years. In 1993 a group of his descendants brought his body home to the Big Island of Hawaii, where it was re-interred in the Kahikolu Congregational Church cemetery.

Reformed Congregational Fellowship

Reformed Congregational Fellowship Report

The Twelfth Annual Reformed Congregational Fellowship Pastors' Conference was held this past April 17–19, 2012 at the Wonderland Conference Center in Sharon, Massachusetts. Each session provided a unique opportunity for engaging in substantive discussions that inevitably turned to practical pastoral matters.



This year, Chapter 18 of the Savoy Declaration of Faith, “Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation,” provided fuel for thoughtful, yet practical, discussion.

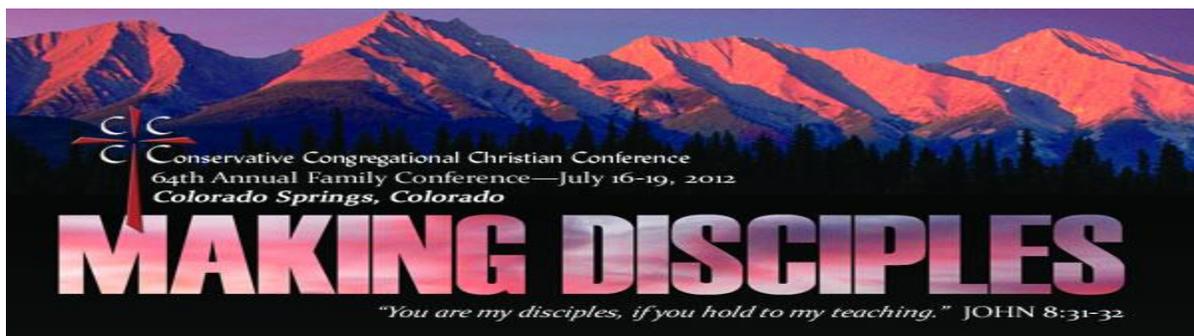
The topics taken up in this year’s papers, six in all, reflected the fact that chapter 18 of the Savoy offers both “objective” and “subjective” grounds for a believer’s assurance. From a paper that considered the oft-overlooked doctrine of union with Christ, to one that dealt with the practical application of the doctrine of assurance in hospice care settings, to a biographical sketch of John Bunyan, who famously struggled to gain assurance, this life giving doctrine was examined and cross-examined. The result was hearts left, in the words of the Savoy, “more humble and holy.”

Next year’s conference is the first of two that will consider the chapter entitled, “Of the Law of God.” Plan ahead. You’ll want to be part of it. Papers and audio files (though not the discussions) from this year’s conference can be found at www.reformedcongregational.org.

May the Lord continue to bless your service,

Paul Wanamaker and Kirk van der Swaagh

Family Conference\ 64th Annual Family Conference to Begin



The CCCC 64th Annual Family Conference will be held in Colorado Springs July 16–19 at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center. When you receive this the conference is about to begin.

The CCCC has always been a missions-minded conference. On Tuesday evening, after the evening meeting, we will have a “**Meet Your Missionaries Reception**,” when everybody will have an opportunity to meet our missionaries. Don’t miss it, if you can!

Pastoral Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes

Aurora, MN Palo Congregational Church * Roger Milheim *
Warren, PA Good News Community Church * James Witherington

Pastoral Openings

Greeley, CO St. Paul's Church *
Rockland, ID Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Highland, IL First Congregational Church *
LaMoille, IL First Congregational Church *
Peru, IL First Congregational Church (Independent)
Blandford, MA First Congregational Church *
West Newbury, MA West Newbury Congregational Church (Asst. Pastor – Youth and Families) *
Pownal, ME First Parish Congregational Church (Independent)
Cook, MN Ashawa Chapel * (Part-time)
Inwood, NY Community Bible Church * (Part-time)
Sardis, OH St. Paul's Church * (Part-time)
Ford City, PA First Church of Ford City * (Part-time)
Reynoldsville, PA Paradise Community Church (UCC)
Woxall, PA Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church (Independent)
Orwell, VT First Congregational Church (Independent) (Part-time)

* = Conference member

+ = In process



Health Tips

Dehydration

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

During the course of the day we lose water in the breath we exhale and in our sweat, urine and other wastes. If the amount of water lost exceeds the amount we take in, dehydration can occur.

Some common causes of dehydration include fever, heat exposure and too much exercise, severe vomiting or diarrhea and increased urination. Young children, older adults and people with chronic illnesses are at increased risk of becoming dehydrated.

Being thirsty is not the best gauge of your body's need for water. Having dark yellow or amber color urine is a better signal of dehydration. Other symptoms of dehydration include dry mouth, weakness, decreased urination and confusion.

Sometimes medical attention may be required to readjust your fluids properly. If you or someone you know has a fever over 101 degrees, prolonged vomiting or diarrhea, weight loss, low urine production, sunken eyes or confusion, seek medical help immediately. Babies need to be evaluated for a wet diaper every 3 hours and to be sure the soft spots on top of the infants head are not sunken.

Drinking small amounts of water, Pedialyte or Gatorade, or sucking on ice chips are ways to become rehydrated if you notice symptoms of dehydration. If symptoms persist seek medical care immediately.

It is important to be aware of ways to prevent dehydration from occurring, such as taking extra water with you to outdoor events and work where you might encounter increased sweating and fluid loss. Avoid exercise and exposure during high heat days. Wear light colored clothes if you must be out in the heat of the day. Avoid alcohol, since it increases fluid loss and your perception to recognize symptoms of dehydration. Be attentive to young children and older adults around you for symptoms of dehydration.

Source: www.webmd.com

Announcements and Events

Promotions to Glory

Charles H. “Charlie” McCrillis; born June 11, 1936 died May 12, 2012, joined the CCCC May 1989. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of the Green for many years, where he served as a deacon. Charles later became a pastor and served as an interim pastor at several churches around the country including the First Congregational church in Middleboro, Massachusetts.

Coffee Donation

Every gift counts. Have you ever thought of giving up one cup of coffee shop coffee or a fast food drink a month and contributing the amount to the ministry of the CCCC office? At approximately \$2.00 a month, times 12 months, times the total membership reported on church survey forms the amount would be \$707,088.00 a year. Think of the impact that this would make in the Kingdom of God!

Letters to the Editor and Readers’ Contributions

We welcome your contributions to our publication. 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.

New to the CCCC?

Brush up on our Congregational history as masterfully retold by Rev. Nick Granitsas, seasoned instructor of our CCCC Polity Course. Learn about our distinctive Congregational polity and our Codes of Ethics for Ministers and Congregations. Now available on DVD with a Notebook that includes many extras!

Order online through NextStep Resources: <http://www.nsresources.com/browse.cfm/4,5914.html> or directly through Gordon-Conwell’s Semlink site: http://store.gordonconwell.edu/product_p/ncs-mc601hi.htm

Scholarships Available

Students under Conference Care are eligible for scholarships from the CCCC. This is one very practical way we can come alongside and support those preparing for ministry in the CCCC. Full and part-time students can apply by using the form available online at http://www.cccusa.com/ministries/conference_care/student-care/. Complete guidelines are also included. If you still have questions, please contact the Conference office.

CCCC Peacemaker Certification Training

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.”

The CCCC Ministry of Conference Care, in partnership with Peacemaker Ministries, is pleased to announce three two-day training events especially for CCCC members to provide specialized training in Christian Conciliation (peacemaking). This training will teach you about your own conflict style, will provide specialized training in biblical reconciliation of conflict, and will offer the basics of mediating conflict resolution between others. Please join us for one of these regional events:

- High Plains Region – September 28-29, 2012 at Salem Congregational Church of Scottsbluff, Nebraska
- Great Lakes Region – October 26-27, 2012 at First Congregational Church of Lodi, Ohio
- Upper Midwest Region – November 9-10, 2012 at Woodbury Community Church of Woodbury, Minnesota

While this training will be invaluable to everyone within the CCCC Family (and all are welcome to participate), the pathway for CCCC Peacemaker Certification will only be offered to credentialed members of the Conference who satisfactorily complete the certification process. CCCC Area Representatives may attend these training events free of charge. *Please note that this is a CCCC Certification and not the full certification provided through Peacemaker Ministries.*



Taught by Dr. John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care & Church Development, you will learn practical steps to foster a “culture of peace” within your own life and ministry. Dr. Kimball has completed Peacemaker Ministries’ Advanced Church Conflict module and has been helping local churches with the peacemaking process since 2006.

For more information or to register, please visit the appropriate link below:

[High Plains Region \(Scottsbluff, Nebraska\)](#)

[Great Lakes Region \(Lodi, Ohio\)](#)

[Upper Midwest Region \(Woodbury, Minnesota\)](#)

We look forward to seeing you!

FORESEE Publications

CCCC Authors

Through Troubled Waters:

Overcoming the Challenges of Being Bullied and Teased

by Pam Turner as told to Ken Hinkley

Bullying. Taunting. Teasing. We have played a part in it. Some of us have been the victim. Many of us have been the offender. Through Troubled Waters will help explain the real dangers of this behavior. Wrestling with the discussion questions will help readers overcome, whether they are the victim or the perpetrator.

\$11.95 from FORESEE Publications

Ken is the pastor of the Carthage Union Church in Maine. He has been in the pastoral ministry for almost twenty years. Ken has had an interest in writing since his teenage years and has written many poems, short stories, and other projects.



The playground was a nightmare. Physically, it was plenty large enough for the students' needs for physical activity, but it would never be large enough to escape their torments, teasing and bullying. I was often called retarded. There was a lot of 'accidental' shoving in the hallways or in line.

Because of the negative attitudes of others, I would spend a lot of time by myself. Since they did not want me around I was not asked to join them very often, but I chose to be alone equally as often.

Many times I would not even go outside. I would find a place in a corner of the school to spend by myself to avoid their taunts. Our teacher and other staff would try to encourage me to join the other kids, but no one ever asked me why I desired to be alone. On those days I did venture outside, I always felt unwanted, unaccepted and usually the last to be chosen for any team activity.



When ordering your Sunday school, V.B.S. – Bible Studies & Church supplies 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/ministries/foresee-publications/