



MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

IN THIS ISSUE:

CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE

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INDESCRIBABLE!

*There is nothing more
indescribable than the
Trinity*



EXISTENT IN THREE
PERSONS

*The Inseparable
Community*



COMMUNITY
PASTOR MINISTRY

*Pastors across the
country have been
trained*

- AROUND THE WORLD
- ANNUAL GATHERING INTENSIVES AND WORKSHOPS
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CM COMMENTS



INDESCRIBABLE!



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

One of my favorite worship songs is the Chris Tomlin song, "Indescribable." The chorus of this song contains these words...

*Indescribable, uncontainable,
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.
You are amazing God*

*All powerful, untameable,
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God*

When considering all of the attributes of God, there is nothing more indescribable than the Trinity. Our statement of faith contains this statement...

"We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

**THE
MYSTERY OF
GOD'S NATURE
IS REVEALED TO
US AS WE GET
TO KNOW HIM
MORE EACH
DAY.**

CM COMMENTS

Every attempt to explain the Trinity is inadequate. Can we really say that God is like an egg? Could the eternal God ever be limited to a one-dimensional triangle? Does God really look like a shamrock? Does the state of water (water, ice and steam) relate at all to a living and loving God?

Dawson McAllister says this about the Trinity,

“We can’t fully define God or the Trinity. But that’s what’s so cool about God. He’s so awesome, powerful and inexplicable, that we can’t define him. Nor would we want to. He just leaves us looking to him with wonder and awe.”

The passion of the life that we share as members of the CCCC is that we would live in obedience to Jesus as we “love God, love others and as we go, make disciples.” Loving God begins with getting to know Him personally and growing in our understanding of Him on a daily basis. The mystery of God’s nature is revealed to us as we get to know Him more each day.

I have been a believer for nearly 65 years. I have been a pastor for over 44 years. I’ve been surrounded by people of faith for my entire life. But, I must confess that I grow in my understanding of God each day and I want to know Him more each day.

I am so pleased that we serve a God who is bigger than than we are and beyond our comprehension. This does not drive me away from Him but invites me to know Him better day by day.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS
PRAY TOGETHER SUNDAY**

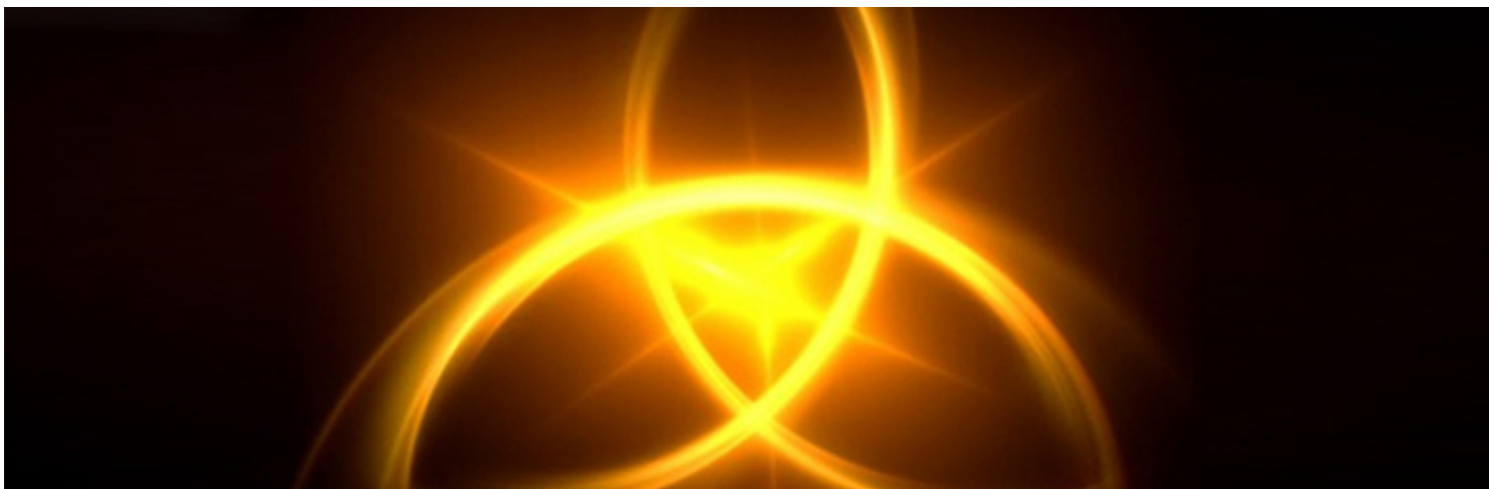


The country faces many challenges. Now is the time for evangelicals to join together in prayer.

Would you join churches across the country and across denominational lines to dedicate a portion of their July 10th worship service to a time of prayer for our hearts and our nation?

Churches can register and receive resources at NAE.net/praytogether.

What if 1 million Christians prayed together with a unified voice on July 10?



ETERNALLY EXISTENT IN THREE PERSONS

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit— linked in an inseparable community.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION



ROB O'NEAL,
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
MULTIPLICATION

THE DIVINE DANCE

Perichoresis.

It's a Greek word that was used by theologians centuries ago to describe the Trinity. A Conference leader used the term at a recent training session, and it took us all a moment to figure out what he was talking about. Perichoresis carries the implication of moving around together. Theologians used it to describe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as locked arm-in-arm in something like a circular dance. (If a scene from the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" comes to mind, you're pretty close.)

At the close of the session, the presenter had us all stand arm in arm, looking each other in eye, as we tried to understand the Trinity, our community with God, and our community with

MULTIPLICATION cont on pg 4

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



JOHN KIMBALL,
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
DEVELOPMENT

RELATIONSHIP

Over the last month, I have been reading and studying the covenants. I remember my Old Testament professor in seminary becoming so animated when we worked through this topic. I knew as a young seminarian that the covenants were special, but my personal fondness for them has only grown over many years of walking with and serving Christ. It's easy to get caught up in the mechanics of the early covenants (I'm reminded of a great teaching on suzerain-vassal treaties) and completely miss the point. The covenants God made with his people were not just a set of rules and expected outcomes, but were the means to a faithful and righteous relationship with him.

DEVELOPMENT cont on pg 4

CONFERENCE CARE



LENN ZELLER,
DIRECTOR OF
CONFERENCE CARE

THAT WE WOULD BE ONE

The apostle John recorded in his Gospel a long prayer of Jesus for Himself, then for His disciples, then for all believers in ages to come. In praying for all believers, Jesus said ...

"My prayer is not for them [the disciples] alone, I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You."- John 17: 20-21

Jesus' first and primary request for His church was that we would be one. What was foremost in His heart and mind for us was not a shallow, surface kind of unity built on common human tradition, but a deep oneness of spirit and soul based on a common

CARE cont on pg 6

MULTIPLICATION

one another. We didn't dance, because we were all too uncoordinated. My arms ached as I kept them up on the shoulders of the two tall colleagues standing on either side of me. However, I got the picture. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are linked in an inseparable community. They act together. They work together. Always.

The Trinity is a model for our community. Made in the image of a Triune God, we love one another like members of the Trinity. Yes. We are linked in an inseparable community. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, part of a family. We don't get a choice in it. We can't leave it. That's one way the theology of the Trinity works itself out in our lives. I'm glad that theologically speaking we are a community, because we desperately need that community. I am a pastor, and I need other pastors in my life. I serve church planters, and I see church planters in need of community with one another.

I think about Brian Bethke, ministering (in some ways) all alone to a group of people in southern California left largely untouched by the Church. I think about the way he drives a long distance each way to his congregation, because he has a week-day job elsewhere. I think about the fact that there are few pastors close by who can connect with him and encourage him. But Brian and other church planters just like him are created in the image of the Triune God. They were made for perichoresis, the dance and co-operation of a community. We all were.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, may we provide community to one another somehow. May we minister out of community. May we show the world around us hope that followers of Jesus have something unique and wonderful.

(Thank you, Dan Peterson, for reminding me how God's nature shows us how to behave!)

DEVELOPMENT

Relationship is such a simple, foundational idea when it comes to the Christian Faith – and yet it is the one thing so many of us struggle to build and maintain. We do not primarily practice a religion, but we walk in relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Henry Blackaby reminds us that God wants to have a relationship with us that is both *real and personal*.¹ Relationship takes work: work to establish, work to preserve and a lot of work to repair when things go awry. God has always desired a relationship with us, and has laid out the “best practices” for us to enjoy it.

When I consider the second item in our CCCC Statement of Faith, “We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” I am again reminded why relationship is such a priority for our God. From eternity past to eternity future, our triune God is in relationship! The love, harmony and unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is perfect and perpetual. And our God shares all of this with us, his creation! With David we can sing, “From everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—with those who keep his covenant and remember his precepts” (Psalm 103:17-18). With Jeremiah we can declare, “The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness’ (Jeremiah 31:3)!

The richness of my own walk with Christ rests not on the rituals of a religion, but in my daily pursuit of a relationship with him. Relationship is the basis of all ministry. Relationship is the target of the gospel's reconciling power. And when we are in a right relationship with God and with each other, we begin to share in what our triune God has experienced for all eternity.

**“WE BELIEVE THAT
THERE IS ONE
GOD, ETERNALLY
EXISTENT IN THREE
PERSONS: FATHER,
SON AND HOLY
SPIRIT.”**

¹ Blackaby, Henry and Claude V. King. *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 1990.



NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN, NE REGIONAL PASTOR

“PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST”

Recently I was privileged to represent the CCCC at Vision New England’s GO Conference. This is the beginning of a renewed effort to provide a venue here in New England for encouragement, teaching, fellowship and disciple-making on large scale. People gathered in Hartford, CT from all areas of the region and all types of ministry settings to worship the one true God. The same God, the only God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

As we heard from our speakers, we saw God at work in numerous ways. Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative works with death row inmates. In his testimony he told us how **God the Father** lead him to this ministry and defined his work and calling. Bryan said “Christians, more than any other tribe should understand the power of mercy, since God in His mercy has acted on our behalf in the midst of our guilt.” We were invited to ask ourselves, “Why would God decide that a love of mercy would be of the highest order for His people?” God the Father loves His children and desires they show mercy to one another. God the Father loved us in such a way that he sent His one and only Son to die on the cross for our sins.

We also heard from Carl Medeiros whose call to serve Christ is peacemaking in the Middle East. Carl talked about how he shares the story of Jesus of Nazareth with people groups in the Middle East to promote peacemaking and reconciliation. He spoke of the power Jesus has in that place to make a difference. The mention and discussion of Christianity he said, is often a closed door, but the story of the **Son of God** who came to die for our sins, that was a story people wanted to hear. Jesus changed the world 2000 years ago and continues to change the world today. Even in such places as the Middle East. No place is too difficult for Him.

Near the end of May I was able to attend a gathering of Pastors in New Hampshire where Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church spoke with us. The church has an interesting story of growth by conversion. Jim told us story after story about how the **Holy Spirit** has worked in his church to bring the lost to Christ. He spoke of how the presence of the Holy Spirit often comes over the congregation in powerful ways. He encouraged us to be prepared for the Holy Spirit to move in unexpected ways and to be careful not to stifle His presence in any way.

These are just three recent examples of how God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are coming alongside, and leading us in the Kingdom work we share.

In the CCCC We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is one God, we see him evident in our lives each day. We know him and experience Him as Father, Son and Spirit. Praise Him that he exists for us in every way we need Him.

**THE
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CARE

devotion to Him and a common faith in His Word. He prayed for a unity so deep that it would reflect the very oneness of the Trinity itself.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have lived in absolute and perfect oneness for all eternity. Theirs is a seamless unity of purpose, will, wisdom, affection, and love so deep that it transcends our human ability to understand or express. They are three Persons, yet one divine being, with no flaw or hint of division or difference. And that kind of intrinsic, essential unity is what Jesus prayed for us!

**WHAT NEVER
CEASES TO
AMAZE ME, IS
HOW THEY ARE
SEARCHING
FOR A GIFT FOR
THEIR SIBLINGS,
SOMETHING TO
TAKE HOME AND
SHARE WITH A
BROTHER OR
SISTER.**

Surely that will never happen in the fullness of His desire for us until the Day of the Lord when Jesus returns and makes all things new. Until then, the fall continues to have its effect and to wreak havoc on even the church. According to John Calvin, “Everything that constituted a human being, including the soul, was out of kilter because of sin, and every human heart was an abyss of confusion. The truth was painful, but it was still true. Human nature was inclined to idleness and lies ...The heart was so riddled with sin that even what appeared to be good was really cloaked in hypocrisy and deceit.”¹ All this was because of the Fall. Someday, that will all be made right, but in the meantime we will never live in the perfect unity of the Trinity. This can be seen in our own imperfect relationships and in the frail and fractured relationships within our congregations.

However, the redeemed of the Lord can begin to show the beginnings of such oneness as we live more and more fully in His grace and by obedience to His Word. We can grow in unity and in communion to a very hopeful degree and can see the first fruits of the kind of oneness we will one day experience in the new earth. Glimpses of it abound, as people in our congregations honestly care for one another, pray for one another, and seek peace.



The children in our after school Bible Club are given “points” for their attendance, good behavior and memorization of weekly Scripture verses. Every so often we have “store” for them, where they can “spend” those points for small prizes. They are cheap trinkets at best. We do the best we can to find fun little items for them, but budget considerations limit what we can do given the number of children involved. Nevertheless, the children take this very seriously and choose their prizes carefully.

What never ceases to amaze me, though, is how many of them make it known that they are searching for a gift for their siblings, something to take home and share with a brother or sister. What they get is not very much, ultimately. Nevertheless, they want to share the joy with others at home! That is unity of heart and mind! That is thinking of others and putting them above yourself. That’s what I’m talking about!

¹ “John Calvin: A Pilgrim’s Life,” by Herman Selderhuis. Translated by Albert Gootjes. Inter-Varsity Press, Nottingham, England, 2009. P. 193

AG2016 CARLSBAD

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH MULTIPLICATION MINISTRY PRIORITY INTENSIVES BEFORE THE 2016 ANNUAL GATHERING

**Making Disciples—
The Key to Developing Your Church**

The Church Development Team will be offering a special one-day intensive prior to the beginning of this year’s CCCC Annual Gathering in Carlsbad, California. John Kimball, Rich Cook and Dave Eisley will present Making Disciples: The Key to Developing Your Church from 9:00a to 3:00p on Tuesday, July 26th at Carlsbad Community Church. The cost is \$20 per participant, and includes all materials and lunch.

This important intensive provides an overview of Church Development – the process of re-aligning the systems and ministries of your congregation for health and kingdom fruit. Topics include:

- The Life-cycle of Many Churches
- The Heart of Disciple-making
- Discipling Through Spheres of Influence
- Obstacles to Disciple-making
- Restoring Fruit to Local Church Ministry
- An Overview of the Church Development Process

This intensive is designed for pastors and lay-people alike. We hope you can join us. For more information and to register*, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/making-disciples-the-key-to-developing-your-church-tickets-25284438436>.

The Nineveh Project

MONDAY, JULY 25- 6PM to TUESDAY, JULY 26- 1PM, HOLIDAY INN, CARLSBAD, CA

An intensive pre-Annual Gathering meeting of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference with the purpose of equipping, training, coaching, and releasing churches and individuals to plant churches, featuring **Michael Gatlin, National Coordinator of Multiply Vineyard.**



Senior Pastor of the Vineyard Church in Duluth, MN, Michael Gatlin is also Director of the National Vineyard Church Planting Ministry. He is working with a team to develop and implement a plan to plant 750 Vineyard churches across the US between 2013-2023.

Come and be challenged by the stories he has to tell, and encouraged from the message he has to share.

Price: \$75 - (Monday Dinner and Tuesday Lunch Included)

For more information or to register*, go to cccusa.com/ag and choose The Nineveh Project from the right-hand menu.

**Please note to attend these Intensive sessions you MUST register for them in addition to the AG registration.*

Go to www.cccusa/ag to find the latest Annual Gathering information:

- Workshops
- Tentative schedule
- Youth/Children Programs
- Speakers
- ...and more

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

...Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. —John 4:35

It's HARVEST TIME

A MOVE IS IN THE AIR*

SCOT MYHR, CCCC COMMISSIONED CHRISTIAN WORKER

Seven years ago we started our two year internship at the Pittsburgh Chinese Church Oakland (PCCO). After a year we thought how nice it would be to stay here for many years. It appears that God's plan is for eight years.

Scot and Sheryl Myhr with their daughters, Corrie and Esther serve with OMF International.

The OMF Vision:

Through God's grace we aim to see an indigenous biblical church movement in each people group of East Asia, evangelizing their own people and reaching out in mission to other peoples.

Watching Sheryl's parents age, followed by much prayer and discussions with our OMF International leaders, we believe it's time to start planning a summer 2017 move to move to southern California. We love Pittsburgh and the Chinese church here, and would love to stay, so it will be a difficult move.

We don't yet know exactly where we will be living and ministering. Sheryl's parents live in Redlands, CA which is about 60 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. There is a small university in Redlands as well as a software company school. Loma Linda University and Medical Center are about 6 miles away; the University of California Riverside and California State University San Bernardino are both about 20 miles. We are open to other southern CA locations too.

Chinese attend all of the schools mentioned above, most of them will return to China. Our goal is to align with the OMF International Chinese Diaspora Returnee Ministry (CDRM) mission statement: *"Glorifying God by evangelizing and discipling strategic Chinese scholars in the USA, by preparing Returnees for ministry among their own people and others, and by equipping other Christians to do the same."*

This summer (2016) we will be in southern CA for the CCCC Annual Gathering and will also visit some key ministry leaders about our potential future ministry. We will be asking God to guide us to the location He wants. We will also be looking at potential schools for our daughters.

Praises

1. God provided enough funds from our partners to pay off the used van we purchased.
2. The Happy English Corner (HEC) helped connect Chinese to the church. Three former HEC attendees were baptized in April.
3. Our landlord did NOT ask us to move out this summer as he originally wanted.

Prayer

1. Summer ministry opportunities.
2. Scot as he starts serving on the CDRM Chinese Returnee Retreat task force.
3. Finishing school for this year and future school concerns for Corrie and Esther
3. Personal contacts with Chinese for Scot and Sheryl.
4. Profitable time in southern CA – at the conference, connecting with ministry leaders plus some vacation time.
5. To plan and execute our move well.

Partnership information: email, call 800.422.5330 or online at omf.org/us/partner

*Excerpt from May 2015 email

CCCC NEWS

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

Dunstable, MA Dunstable Evangelical
Congregational Church*
Bobby Ross

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Santa Barbara, CA Bethany Congregational
Church *

Bethune, CO Hope Congregational Church*

Greeley, CO St Paul's Congregational
Church*
(Part-time Associate Pastor)

Salem, CT Congregational Church
(Part-time Youth Pastor)

Sherman, CT Sherman Congregational
Church*
(Part-time Youth Pastor)

Blue Island, IL Evangelical Community Church*

Peru, IL First Congregational Church

Ashley Falls, MA Greenwood Community
Church

Georgetown, MA Byfield Parish (UCC)

Heath, MA Union Evangelical Church of
Heath *(Part-time)*

Kingston, MA Mayflower Congregational*

Wakefield, MA First Parish Congregational
Church*

Kittery Point, ME First Christian Church* *(Part-time)*

Bancroft, MI First Congregational Church*

Hollandale, MN Hollandale Congregational Church*
(Part-time)

Shorewood, MN Minnewashta Community
Church*

Mitchell, NE Federated Church*

Goffstown, NY Congregational Church of
Goffstown*

Lakeview, NY Lakeview Community Church*

Middletown, NY First Congregational Church*
(Part-time)

Berne, PA St Thomas Church

Chepachet, RI Chepachet Union Church

Suffolk, VA Cyprus Chapel Christian
Church*

Derby, VT Derby Community Church*

Spokane, WA Lincoln Heights Community
Church*

Elkhart Lake, WI St. Paul's Christian & St. Peter
Evangelical Churches
*(Yoked pastorate) **

Wilton, WI Faith Congregational Church*

* = Conference member | + = In process

**COMMUNITY PASTOR TRAINING
IN MINNESOTA**



The third Community Pastor training event was held at Camp Lebanon in Burtrum, MN on May 23 – 25, 2016. The sessions were led by Lenn Zeller, Director Of Conference Care; Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister; Matt Milligan and Dan Peterson. There were twelve pastors from Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin at the training.

Thirty-seven pastors have been trained in the past two years in an effort to develop Pastoral Communities across our nation where pastors can find encouragement and support for their lives and ministries.

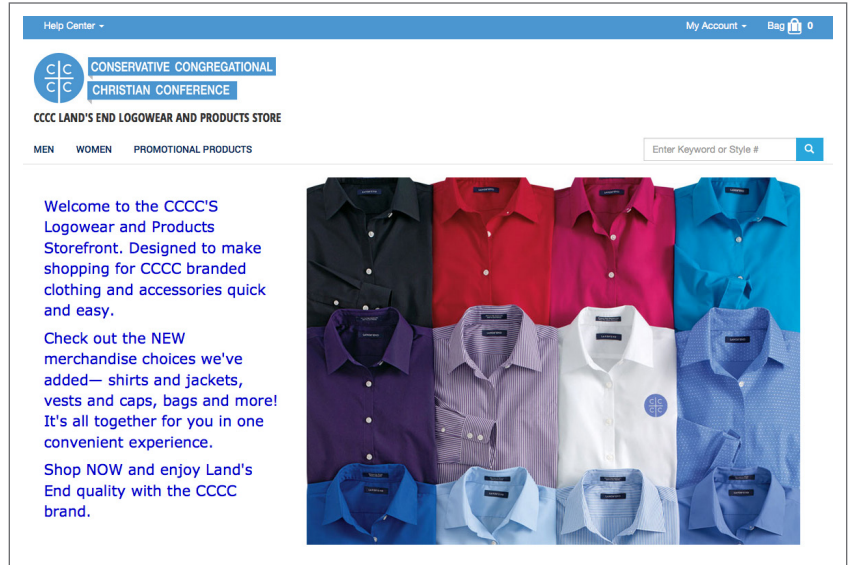


CCCC LAND'S END LOGOWEAR STORE

Interested in any of our CCCC "in house" items, like logo shirts, bags, etc.? Please check out our new Land's End CCCC Logowear Store. Lots of Land's End favorites now available to be personalized with the new CCCC logo. There are items for personal or promotional uses.

CHECK IT OUT AT:

[http://business.landsend.com/
store/cccc/](http://business.landsend.com/store/cccc/)



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