



MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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**CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE**

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CM COMMENTS

*Serving a mighty God
who is at work in our
conference.*



A NEW START

*Exciting things are
ahead at the beginning
of a new year in our
ministry priorities.*



AG2016 CARLSBAD

*To attend or not
to attend, it's getting
to be time to decide.*

- NE REGIONAL MINISTER
- PRO-LIFE NEWS
- AROUND THE WORLD
- COMMUNICATION UPDATE
- OPPORTUNITIES & PLACEMENT

CM COMMENTS



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

SERVING A MIGHTY GOD



I love the teaching of Romans 8:31 which says, "...if God is for us, who can be against us?" This teaching about the promise of God's presence reminds us that we serve a mighty God who created this world and holds the world in His hands. He has done a mighty work of salvation through the gift of His Son, Jesus the Christ, and holds eternity in His hands. Nothing in all creation is greater than God and nothing can separate us from His love.

I sang the song, "Unstoppable God," at a church that I visited on the first Sunday of 2016. I was so encouraged by these words...

*Unstoppable God
Let Your glory go on and on
Impossible things
In Your name they shall be done*

*Nothing shall be impossible
Your kingdom reigns unstoppable*

CM COMMENTS

We'll shout Your praise forevermore
Jesus our God unstoppable

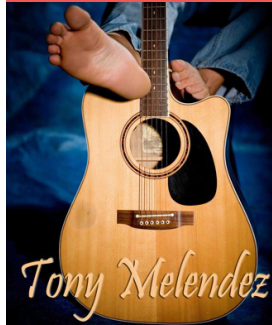
We serve a mighty God and He is at work in our Conference in a special way. I believe that 2016 will be a great year in the life and history of the CCCC.

Our members are devoted to live in obedience to Jesus as we “love God...love others...make disciples as we go!” I am confident that God will honor this devotion by using us to do His mighty work. I have been thrilled to witness the Lord’s work in and through our pastors and churches in the past year. Churches are growing! Lives are being transformed! Believers are being encouraged! We can expect more of this in the coming year.

Our Conference has focused the energy of our mission on these priorities: Church Development, Church Multiplication and Conference Care. God is at work in each of these areas in special ways. One of the main emphases of our work in 2016 will be the training of Community Pastors who will lead pastoral communities of our member ministers from around the nation. We envision at least thirty pastoral communities where pastors gather regularly for prayer, encouragement, training and support. I am confident that God will work in a mighty way through our pastors in the year to come.

I am confident as well that God will work in my life and yours to do a mighty work in the days to come. Let us live in this confidence that “...if God is for us, who can be against us?”

PRO-LIFE NEWS

**THE DIGNITY OF LIFE**

Inspirational singer Tony Melendez to perform at Jan. 22 National Memorial for the Pre-Born

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In 1962, those fighting for the legalization of abortion rallied around a children’s television host from Arizona who had taken pills her husband brought back from Europe. The pills were the now-infamous thalidomide, a drug that impacted the development of children in the womb, causing thousands to be born with missing or shortened limbs. The woman became a cause célèbre, and eventually flew to Sweden to end the life of her unborn child.

That same year, and with no fanfare, a young woman in Nicaragua who had been prescribed thalidomide for morning sickness gave birth to a son with no arms. Fitted with prosthetic limbs as a child, at 10 he would shake them off for good because he was more comfortable using his feet.

That child was Tony Melendez, a guitarist and songwriter who for more than 30 years has been inspiring audiences around the nation and world with his talent, his faith, and his witness.

Melendez will perform Jan. 22 during the 22nd annual **National Memorial for the Pre-Born and Their Mothers and Fathers** at Constitution Hall in D.C. The interdenominational prayer service takes place every year on the morning of the **March for Life**, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

“Tony played for Pope John Paul II and sang the National Anthem to open a World Series game,” noted Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life and President of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, sponsors of the prayer service. “He is married and a father. Where other people might have seen limits, he saw only opportunity. He is the perfect person to remind our audience – and the world – that every human life has dignity and purpose.”¹

¹ News release from National Pro-Life Religious Council. For more information go to nprcouncil.org.



THIS TIME OF YEAR

The beginning of a new year is time for reflection, to get started, to forget the past.

DEVELOPMENT

JOHN KIMBALL, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

THE NEW YEAR



January is an interesting month. For many it's a time of reflection – especially around New Year's Day – considering life over the past 12 months.

For others it's a time of resolution – making decisions for critical change over the next 12 months. And for still others, it's a time of review – assessing goals and objectives to see if life is on target with their ongoing plans.

Churches tend to fall into these same patterns as well. There are churches who reflect mostly on their past and how things have changed around them, there are those who focus primarily on the future and their plans and desires, and then there are those who are in a kingdom-intentional process of carefully evaluating their progress, celebrating accomplishments and adjusting where things have not gone as planned so they can stay on course.

DEVELOPMENT cont on pg 4

MULTIPLICATION

ROB O'NEAL, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

“HELLO. IT'S ME.”



Pop superstar Adele rocketed into the record books last fall when fans gobbled up more than 1 million copies of her latest song in one week. “Hello,” begins with a simple tune and the haunting words, “Hello. It's me.” The opening sounds like the diva who had been absent from the music scene for several years wanted to remind the world that she still exists. If sales are any indication, the public remembers her.

After the iconic beginning, the song continues, “I was wondering if after all these years you'd like to meet to go over everything...” While the song is about a failed relationship, that's not where the song hits me. Adele's words call me, and they speak to us all at the beginning of 2016 if we will let them.

Healthy Pastors

We are dedicated to living out the irreducible core of loving God, loving others, and making disciples. This life-

MULTIPLICATION cont on pg 4

CARE

LENN ZELLER, DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE CARE

FORGOTTEN, FORGIVEN, FREED



¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

I have never been a big fan of New Year's resolutions, probably because I never seem to keep them very long. If I had lost all the pounds I promised myself to lose over the years, I'd have disappeared totally from the face of the earth a long time ago. The problem, I guess, is not with the concept of resolutions itself, but with my own lack of discipline!

Nevertheless, Paul's advice in the passage above is sound. Why don't we just forget what is behind? Let's

CARE cont on pg 2

DEVELOPMENT

The Church Development ministry of the CCCC is tailored to help churches to discern and develop kingdom-intentionality.

At the beginning of the Church Development process the church and her pastor are fully assessed so that the unique needs of the congregation can be addressed and the unique gifts of the congregation can be utilized. The congregation's view of "Church" and the gospel are intentionally aligned with the Scripture so that the congregation can be what Christ has designed them to be and do what Christ has designed them to do. A biblical vision and a biblical strategy to make that vision a reality over time are intentionally worked out by the congregation. An effective discipleship and leader development pathway is intentionally built so that the church is fulfilling its Great Commission purpose. Intercessory prayer, outreach and evangelism are intentionally sought so that Christ's kingdom rule and reign is extended throughout the congregation's local community and beyond.

As you stand at the cusp of 2016, would you like to develop or hone a kingdom intentional process in your church? If you'd like more information about how the Church Development Team might help you, call the Conference Home Office at (651) 739-1474.

MULTIPLICATION

style Jesus taught is based on a relationship with God. We are sons and daughters of God; as children of the Father, we are brothers and sisters to one another; our Father, the Great King, sends us as his ambassadors. Our identity comes from our relationship with God. As we begin 2016, God is calling us into a deeper relationship with him.

Adele's song is all over the radio right now, and every time I hear it begin, I hear God calling to me and to the people I serve, "Hello. It's me." God wants time with us this year. In particular, God wants time with me. He wants my love for him to rise out of the rhythm of listening to him, speaking to him, and obeying him. Our congregations will only be as strong as our pastors are. If you are a pastor, God is calling you too to spend time with him.

A Culture of Believing Prayer and Intercession

Prayer is a vital component of any healthy relationship with God. How is your prayer life as we begin 2016? Is it vibrant? missing? perfunctory? God is calling to us all, "I was wondering if after all these years you'd like to meet to go over everything..." Will your prayer life thrive in 2016 and drive our churches and Conference?

Church Multiplication

God is calling to us, longing to connect with his people. "Hello. It's me." As we listen to God, we know what he will be saying; he wants us to multiply. A vibrant connection with God will lead us to multiply disciples, leaders, and churches.

Let's get started!

CARE

put aside the failures of the past and the resulting disappointment and loss of confidence. As Thomas Edison once said ... *"If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is often a step forward."*

Let's forgive those real or perceived offenses and betrayals and treacheries that hang over us with a cloud of anger and sadness, and just let them go. After all, Christ has forgiven us so much more than we will ever bear from others! Let's leave behind our demand to win, our craving to always be right and get our way, and let's determine to honestly listen to the ideas and positions of others with an open mind; not necessarily always agreeing, but at least hearing and understanding. So much of the conflict that goes on in families, workplaces and churches has to do with power and the demand to get our own way. Let's put that aside long enough to humbly hear others and understand the often very good insights they bring to the table. And let's be willing to at least reconsider those age old traditions that served us so well in the past, but perhaps are no longer relevant in today's culture. Let's not just keep doing things because *"we've always done them that way,"* and be willing set aside customs and practices that no longer relate to people today and that do little to build the Kingdom of God.

And then, freed from the luggage of the past, let's press on toward the calling God has for us as individuals and as congregations. Why continue to allow the past to drag us down like

NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN, NE REGIONAL MINISTER



FORWARD IN FAITH

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

The beginning of a new year is a time to be looking forward to what God has for us. With history as our guide, we can expect that there will be many changes in our future; some expected and welcome, some unexpected and unwelcome. Change is a constant that we have to deal with. Many of our churches are dealing with change in their pastoral leadership. One recent week had me fielding calls from three pastors who were stepping down from their pulpits.

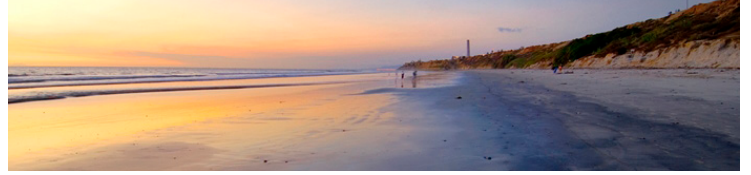
In the Northeast we currently have 12 churches in transition. When a pastor leaves the pulpit, I am often among the first people who gets a call. I will go and meet with that church to help them think through the transition process. Having been doing this since I was an Area Representative, I am always excited to tell them about the resources we have developed for them as they go through this process of change.

I am just as excited to tell them that the Conference has been through a process of change itself, and how we have been led by God to reorganize ourselves and focus on the all-important priorities of our ministry, Church Development, Church Multiplication and Conference Care. We as a Conference have been on a journey which has been referred to as "a long obedience in the same direction." That direction is to be faithful to the call God has given us to love Him, love others and make disciples as we go.

We have much to offer the churches and pastors of the Conference. We have handbooks on evaluating and writing Bylaws and Constitutions. We have manuals on Transition. I have resources to give Transitions Teams and Search Committees regarding best practices to implement in times such as these. We have Interim Ministers who are trained to work with churches, and help them to assess

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AG2016-CARLSBAD



SUSAN MOODY,
AG ADVANCE PLANNING TEAM

TO CARLSBAD OR NOT TO CARLSBAD?

That is the question.



Of course, I *want* to go! The Annual Gathering (AG) is a great time to connect with CCCC folks. The Word of God is proclaimed. We worship in unity. We pray in formal meetings and informal pairings. Meals are shared, my heart is encouraged, and I get to meet people doing Kingdom work in another part of our country.

I live in Chester, VT. Carlsbad, CA is 2943 miles from my house. I pastor a really small church, with a relatively small budget. Why should I spend their faithful offerings to travel all that way for a few days of meetings? Because it is important for the life of the CCCC. And, it is also more affordable than you may think.

The 2015 AG was held in Rochester, NY. My church spent about \$1200.00 for me to be there. In Carlsbad, some of the costs are increased, but the Planning Team has been working hard to make this event as affordable as possible.



- **Plane tickets** are cheaper if you buy far in advance, so make your plans now! (Southwest currently has a round-trip ticket for \$500.00 for me.) Additionally, the event was scheduled from Tuesday to Friday to take advantage of the lesser fares on those days.

- In CA, you won't need a **rental car**. A train runs on a limited schedule from the airport to Carlsbad for

just \$4 (More info coming in the brochure and on the website.) There will be airport shuttles to hire as

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CARE

a ball and chain? Let it go already! God has so much more in mind for us than that! One thing I have sincerely appreciated about our Conference is the willingness of our leadership to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. As long as I have been involved in the CCCC, and that's been more than twenty years now, I have appreciated the desire to hear the Word and calling of God, and the humble willingness to follow His leading wherever that may take us. In recent years that has led to some significant shifts in focus and even organizational structure. And we're not finished yet, not by any means. But, as the apostle Paul said, we ...*"press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus."* God only knows where that will take us in coming months and years. I, for one, am excited about the possibilities!

NE REGION

where they are and where they need to go. We have peace-making resources for those churches dealing with conflict.

It is such a joy to minister with this fellowship of like-minded churches and pastors who seek the same goal, obedience to the call of God. We have come so far.

But even more exciting is we are not stopping here. At our Annual Gathering in Rochester, NY this past summer we voted in our new bylaws that align with our ministry priorities. We have a green light to continue to seek the next steps and best practices that God is leading us to. We are not the same as we were yesterday, and not as great as we will be tomorrow, but we are faithfully following a God who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, who leads us forward in faith.

CARLSBAD

well. Shuttle buses will run between the hotel and the church where all our meetings will be held. When this shuttle is not running, volunteers from the church will be available.

- The **hotel cost** is higher than last year (\$178 per night plus taxes and fees) but it includes breakfast, and you will be staying in a brand new facility. If you are attending by yourself, there is an option to find a roommate to share hotel costs. Email ***cccride-roomshare@gmail.com*** and a volunteer from the Carlsbad Church will help connect people looking to share hotel rooms and/or airport shuttle rides.
- The **conference fee** itself will be slightly higher this year (\$200 for the full conference), because of increased overhead expenses, but you will receive more bang for your buck as well. As many meals as the budget will allow are included in the conference fee reducing your out-of-pocket expenses for food.

So, how does this all compare to last year? I hope to share my hotel expenses and take the \$4 train ride, so I expect that my church will need to cover \$1500.00 for the AG 2016 costs. Even if something changes, it still looks like I can get to CA and participate in this event for an additional \$300 over what they spent to send me to NY. I think that is worth it for the sake of the Kingdom.

One of the best ways to save money on this AG is to plan ahead! The deadlines for the hotel rate and conference rate are earlier this year.

Watch for the brochure and sign up early!

It is the prayer of the Planning Team that each of us will find a way to make the sacrifice of time and resources to come the 2016 Annual Gathering in Carlsbad and experience what the Lord wants to do among us.

AROUND THE WORLD

BRUCE AND CAROLYN PINKE, CCCC INTERNATIONAL WORKERS, WEC

PINKE'S PROGRESS*The year end news**My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun!*

Malachi 1

Valuing, honoring, admiring and worshipping the Father's name has been a conscious focus this year. Every Friday we are now attending a prayer time for our S* friends—that they will know the Master so deeply that he will be able to transform their lives. We have been surprised to see the numbers go from five to fifteen! On the other side, in our neighborhood, we note that more Jesus-followers are meeting together—from different denominations—for prayer for revival, for reconciliation, for transformation. Our joy is large!

What did our year hold?

- Jan—Mar. In between the hours with S* down in S. Minneapolis and our neighborhood outreach in N. Minneapolis, Carolyn took a sudden trip to Washington when her parents were both put in the hospital and Bruce a trip to WEC hq in Philadelphia. Carolyn's mother went to be with Jesus January 25.
- April—June. We started noticing more S* families living from one to four blocks from our home in N. Minneapolis, so Carolyn changed her focus from the Franklin Library to up in the north—except for one day always down to the mall in S. Minneapolis. Summer means community garden work in our neighborhood! We spent June in South Carolina helping in the teaching at our new WEC Latino training branch—and learning Spanish!
- July—August. One neighborhood event that is new this year is the Light of Jordan Café, run by the Beacon of Hope church plant, with Terrell and Marquita Walter. Marquita runs the café and desires all of us to impact the neighborhood by this open door of hope, community, and care. Carolyn is a part of this outreach, and Bruce has input in Beacon of Hope as an encourager. The little church is only about three blocks from our home.
- Sept—Oct. "One of the delights of my year," Carolyn shares, "has been the developing friendship with my neighbor Rokia and her family. They are a very sweet family. I have now counted seventeen S* families from one to four blocks from our home. I had prayed for five years asking Father to bring them around us. He is awesome!" Bruce and Carolyn took a three-day trauma training, and Bruce taught his yearly "World Religions" class at Bethany Global University (Bethany Fellowship). We highly valued our WEC annual conference in October.
- Nov—Dec. Carolyn needed another trip west to see how her father was doing and to support her sister Rebecca. She was able to spend good time with our son Jeremy. "Special times together!" A Thanksgiving highlight was the visit of Erik Euving from the Netherlands, now studying near Chicago. Erik's parents Harry and Pauline were our teammates in Séguéla for about six years. Our Julianne and her Joel, Elena and Norah, are visiting his parents in Bamako, Mali, for Nov. and Dec. Jennifer and Mark, with their John Mark, Morgan Noelle and Daniel, are continuing well on all fronts.

WEC (Worldwide Evangelization for Christ)

is a multicultural, interdenominational church-planting missions agency. WEC's primary goal is to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the least-evangelized peoples of the world and to see churches planted and growing among them. WEC is committed to finding new, creative and culturally-relevant ways of doing missions.

*(an unreached people group)

THINGS TO NOTE

CCCC HOME OFFICE ADDRESS CHANGE

No, we have not moved, but the Planning and Zoning Commission of the city of Lake Elmo has re-apportioned the streets around our office.

Please note that effective immediately the new MAILING address for our Lake Elmo office is:

**8941 33rd St North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042**

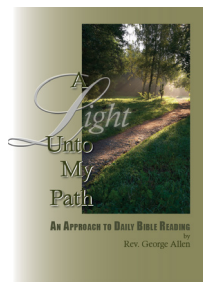
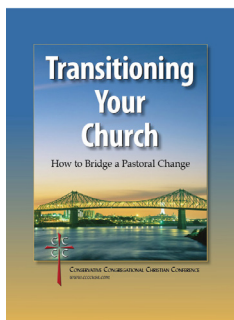
None of the other Home Office or staff contact information will change. Please make this change in your address books. The deadline for compliance is March 1, 2016. Thank-you for your assistance to make this change.

JANUARY 2016 CCCC YEARBOOK

A professionally printed version of the CCCC yearbook will be available January 29, 2016. This version contains the by-laws revisions approved at the July 2015 Annual Gathering. Individual and church contact information has been updated from Ministerial Questionnaires and Church Surveys returned to the Home Office by December 31, 2015.

To order your copy go to the **Denominational Resources** link at nsresources.com and click on the CCCC.

Other CCCC titles and resources are also available from Next Step Resources.



OPPORTUNITIES AND PLACEMENT

PASTORAL CHANGES

Cheney, WA	Cheney Community Church (Independent)
Hudson, IA	Community Church of Hudson* Chip Herrera

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bethune, CO	Hope Congregational Church*
Flagler, CO	First Congregational of Flagler-Arriba*
Greeley, CO	St Paul's Congregational Church* (Part-time Associate Pastor)
Sherman, CT	Sherman Congregational Church* (Part-time Youth Pastor)
Sulphur Springs, IN	Sulphur Springs Christian* (Family Life Minister)
Heath, MA	Union Evangelical Church of Heath (Part-time)
Kingston, MA	Mayflower Congregational*
Tauton, MA	Union Congregational Church*
Wakefield, MA	First Parish Congregational Church*
Cook, MN	Ashawa Chapel* (Part-time)
Shorewood, MN	Minnewashta Community Church*
Lakeview, NY	Lakeview Community Church*
Middletown, NY	First Congregational Church* (Part-time)
Coventry, RI	Church of the Apostles*
Suffolk, VA	Cyprus Chapel Christian Church*
Wilton, WI	Faith Congregational Church*

* = Conference member

+ = In process

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



SHARON GALLOWAY, CHAIR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY

DISCIPLE-MAKING FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22

In John 15, Jesus explains to his disciples that he is the vine and that they are the branches. The vine draws vital nutrients and fluids from the soil, nourishing the branches and enabling them first to bud, then to blossom, then to bear fruit. The vine is the connection between branches and roots, providing structure and support, Jesus says in verse eight, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." In his letter to the Galatians, Paul implies that the evidence proving Christ's followers are truly living in the power of the Holy Spirit is the degree to which we bear the fruit of unconditional love, a joyful heart, a peace-making and peace-keeping nature, deep and abiding patience, compassionate and merciful kindness, sacrificial and cheerful generosity, far-reaching faithfulness, a gentle disposition, and an obedient and mature self-control.

God wants healthy disciples to be fruitful. Spiritual fruit is simply the outward expression of our inner nature. Spirit-led people have these wonderful virtues of godly character as the result of God's spirit acting from within. God's Spirit is like a river and it will flow into us only when it is also flowing out to others. We can begin with people we know. God has placed you in a family, in a job-environment and with friends for a purpose. Spending time with the person you are disciplining is one of the best ways to influence their life with the Gospel. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul said, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." Paul's godly demeanor, patient reactions, and persistent faith were a powerful example to all around him. Therefore, he could encourage others to imitate the changes that the Holy Spirit was producing in him.

Are you living in a way that points others to Jesus? Do your attitude and actions and your vocabulary naturally demonstrate the truths of the Gospel? Who do you know that you can begin to spend time with, pray with and encourage in their spiritual walk? "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit; fruit that will last" (John 15:16). The goal of whole life living, as suggested by Neil Hudson in *Imagine Church: Releasing Whole Life Disciples*, "is the releasing of the people of God to embrace all that God can do in and through them on their front lines."

Spirit-led people have these wonderful virtues of godly character as a result of God's Spirit acting from within.

SAVE THE DATES!

JOIN US AS WE GATHER

WATCH FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON!

TUESDAY, JULY 26th – FRIDAY, 29th 2016
CARLSBAD COMMUNITY CHURCH
Carlsbad, CA

2016 CCCC ANNUAL GATHERING CARLSBAD, CA



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



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POSTAGE