



MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE**

8941 33rd St North,  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
651-739-1474

E-mail: homeoffice  
@ccccusa.com  
www.cccusa.com



**THE DEATH OF A  
SAINT**

*Precious in God's  
Sight*



**HEAVEN OR HELL**

*We believe in the  
resurrection of all  
persons...*



**NEW CONFERENCE  
CARE DIRECTOR  
APPOINTED**

- BOARD UPDATE
- NEWS FROM OC INTERNATIONAL
- VT CHURCH IS AWARDED GRANT
- BIBLE READING CHANGES LIVES
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

**CM COMMENTS**



# THE DEATH OF A SAINT



**RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER**

The CCCC Statement of Faith includes these important words,

*"We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation."*

There are many words that come to mind when we read this statement. Everyone! Eternity! Salvation! Accountability! Judgment! Hope!

I have attended hundreds of funerals in my life. I've officiated at the funeral services of church members and people from the community. I vividly recall the funeral services of loved ones. The Scripture is true when it says,

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants." (Psalm 116:15)*

CM COMMENTS

There is a dramatic difference between the funeral of a believer and the funeral of a non-believer.

**THE IMPACT  
OF OUR  
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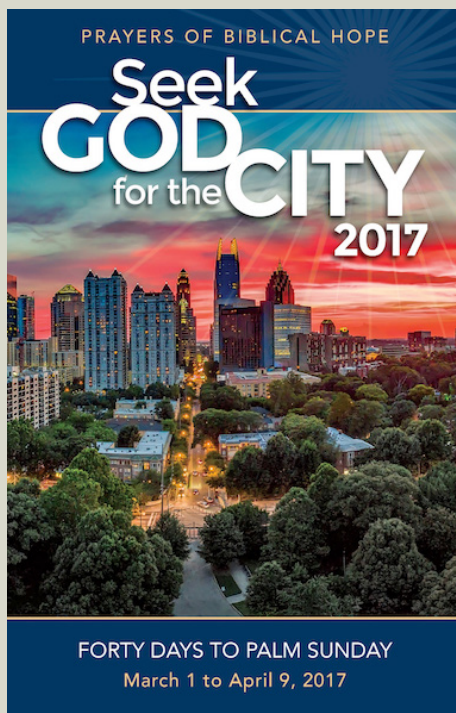
While there is always grief, people gathered to remember a believer speak openly and confidently about the fact that the person is “with the Lord.” These services include songs of praise and worship, reading of Scriptures about salvation and hope, and messages about the saving work of Jesus. There is often an invitation for people to receive the Lord Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

In contrast, the funeral services for non-believers are filled with sadness. The words of eulogy reflect on the life of the person who has passed away. You often hear something like, “There will never be another person like Joe!” I recall a funeral where a son wailed openly and no one could console him. The sense of loss was overwhelming.

The impact of our belief that everyone will be raised to eternal life is significant. It changes the focus of our daily lives from mundane activity to meaningful faith. It directs us to the promises of God and encourages us to receive the free gift of salvation. This belief compels us to share the good news of salvation and openly invite people into a personal relationship with Jesus. We walk by faith and live with hope.

As I write this article, I look up and see the last picture that was taken of me and Shirley with my Mom. Everyone has a big smile on their face. The picture was taken outside of a nursing home where she lived for the last six months of her life. We all knew that the end of her life was near, but we shared the wonderful hope of eternal life through faith in our Lord Jesus!

*“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.” (Psalm 25:5)*



## PRAY FOR THE CITY

*As we come to Him—seeking His face,  
He comes to us—bringing His kingdom.*

*Seek God for the City is designed to mobilize many to pray with united, sustained vision for the people of your community. The scriptures and topics help God’s people pray with passionate, full-hearted hope. This timely guide will help God’s people in your congregation to pray beyond themselves with confidence and clarity.*

*GO to <https://waymakers.org/pray/seek-god/> for more information.*

# RESURRECTION

## WE BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION

*All people will live forever, the only question is where*

### CHURCH MULTIPLICATION



ROB O'NEAL,  
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH  
MULTIPLICATION

### E-MAIL SCAMS

If a friend read the following e-mail message to you and asked for your advice, how would you respond?

*Hello, dear  
I am the wife of the late  
Nigerian Head of State. I am  
presently under house arrest  
while my son is undergoing  
trial. The government has fro-  
zen all the family accounts. To  
save our family from financial  
ruin, I have managed to ship  
through an undercover cou-  
rier company, the sum of 6.5  
million USD kept by my late  
husband. I am offering you  
30% for assisting me secure  
this money. Contact me im-  
mediately.*

After snickering because someone has never heard about Nigerian e-mail scams, hopefully you would strongly

MULTIPLICATION cont on pg 4

### CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



JOHN KIMBALL,  
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH  
DEVELOPMENT

### HEAVEN AND HELL

A few years back I read an article citing reasons why the American Church no longer preaches consistently about heaven and hell. It was an interesting article, but it bothered me on many levels.

First of all, every single reason listed was the result of popular [rather than Biblical] notions about heaven and hell— although I could not argue that the reasons were still probably accurate. More importantly, it bothered me that the Church's neglect of these reportedly unpopular topics also kept her witness to the world (*and, frankly, to her members!*) incomplete. Sacrificing the eternal perspective on life and ministry leads congregations and the communities they serve to focus solely on today and to disregard

DEVELOPMENT cont on pg 4

### NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,  
NE REGIONAL PASTOR

### “AND WE SHALL ALL BE RAISED”

*“We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.”*

In preparing for this article, I went through my bookshelves, pulling out all the books I had on Heaven and hell. It didn't take long. I only had the Bible and *In Light of Eternity* by Randy Alcorn. I perused my archives of sermons for one specifically dealing with Heaven and hell. Again I came up short. Indeed, when was the last time we heard a sermon on Heaven and hell? Or found a best seller dealing with the subject? With the small amount of attention being brought to this subject in our churches and in our

NE REGION cont on pg 9

MULTIPLICATION

suggest that your friend delete the message and never reply. You know the danger. Thieves will steal your money and identity. You would probably do anything you could to protect your friend from this scam.

The resurrection reminds us that there is an even bigger danger many of our friends, family members, and neighbors face. Here's what we believe about the resurrection in the CCCC:

*We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.*

This doctrine comes as enormous comfort to us who follow Jesus. We will spend eternity with God. It also gives us courage. We can face any enemy or adversity, because eternal life waits for us.

But what about people who don't follow Jesus? We must acknowledge the ominous note in this doctrine. The lost will be resurrected to eternal death. It won't be pretty. The Bible makes that clear.

This doctrine leaves us with an imperative. We must share the Good News about Jesus with urgency. If we had a friend who was the potential victim of an e-mail scam, we would do everything in our power to save them from it. We have friends who are looking at a much bigger danger. What will we do?

DEVELOPMENT

the far greater reality of life after death – whether or not that life is with Christ.

I have treasured our CCCC Faith Statement on this issue: “*We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.*” In other words, everybody will live forever, but that eternity may or may not be pleasant.

Part of the CCCC Church Development process is to bring clarity, alignment and practice to what we believe. It is one thing to passionately espouse something – it is quite another to actually live it. Even within Evangelicalism

today, there are things churches emphasize, things they tend to avoid (like sermons on hell), and even things they may not understand as clearly as they should.

A fruitful Christian life – as well as a fruitful congregational ministry – must always see things with eternity in view. Every sermon, every gathering, every conversation must lovingly coax people away from our temporal blindness. We do not live for the moment. We do not even live for today. Everything every person does impacts their eternity, but if the church is lax in guiding people to that conclusion, their perspective on everything is skewed.

**THERE ARE  
INDEED TWO  
RESURRECTIONS.  
ONE IS TO THE  
GLORIOUS  
PRESENCE OF GOD;  
THE OTHER IS TO  
THE SUFFERING OF  
HELL.**

There are indeed two resurrections: one is to the glorious Presence of God; the other is to the suffering of hell. A person can call these ideas archaic, but that does not change their truth. Something powerful is lost in the life and witness of a church that neglects to lovingly and regularly remind people about the reality of their eternal destiny.

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

PETER WOOD APPOINTED AS  
DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE CARE

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Rev. Peter Wood of Trumansburg, New York** as the new part-time Director of Conference Care. Peter was appointed by the Board of Directors to replace Rev. Lenn Zeller. Lenn served the Conference well as DCC for over three years but resigned

in July to concentrate on his church ministry and his mentoring ministry to young people being reached through the church's outreach into the community.

Peter brings over 30 years of pastoral experience to this position. He has a M.Div. degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and has been a member of the CCCC since 2007. Peter most recently served as the pastor of our CCCC church in New Ipswich, NH. He is married to Diane and has two adult children, Matthew, married to Elizabeth, and Sarah.

He has been an active member of the Church Development Team since 2009. This work has given him a greater understanding of the CCCC Guiding Values of Healthy Pastors, and Healthy Disciple-making Churches.

Peter will work with the Conference Care Team comprised of himself and our Regional Pastors, Cliff Christensen and Terry Shanahan. The highest priority for this ministry will be the development of Pastoral Communities across our nation as we develop and equip Community Pastors who will lead these communities. Peter will also work to:

- Develop a culture of Biblical peacemaking and reconciliation through training and encouragement of our members.
- Assist churches in a pastoral transition.
- Care for pastors and churches in crisis.

Peter is eager to begin his new ministry as Director of Conference Care for the CCCC. He says,

*"I am excited to help create an environment of healthy pastors and healthy churches and to create communities where pastors are supporting each other. I look forward to being a part of our ministry staff leading the CCCC priorities of Church Development, Church Multiplication and Conference Care."*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE



TODD VENMAN, CCCC PRESIDENT

"WE'VE GOT A GREAT BIG  
WONDERFUL GOD"

This song comes to mind as I review the outcomes of the Board of Directors Meeting held online on October 18th. God continues to answer our prayers of discernment and wisdom in these challenging days. We have been careful not to ask His blessings upon our efforts but to ask for discernment as to where He wants His provisions, entrusted into our care, to be used.

The CCCC Treasurer, Sue Drehmel gave this report. *"We are 10 % ahead of intake compared to last year. Our expenses are under the budgeted amount by 4% and the staff is working hard to keep expenses under control."* Sue is continuing to work with the auditors to improve our processes of internal controls, and the auditors continue to express their positive feedback with our progress.

God, we rejoice to experience your faithfulness. We are reminded that these volunteers and financial gifts have been entrusted into our care. Grant your blessings upon these volunteers for their care to your Conference. Grant discernment and wisdom to our Financial Committee, staff and Controller as we continue to pay ourselves back. May the Spirit prompt us to give as He wills to help liquidate this debt to ourselves. Continue to provide through volunteers until we are able to hire the staffing needed to accomplish your agenda for the CCCC. Grant wisdom and discernment to the Board of Directors as they press near to hear the voice of God. In Jesus name Amen.

The **Biblical Marriage Sub Committee** reported on their ongoing work to provide the conference with a position paper that reflects the heart of God's Grace, Truth and Justice. With the ever changing definitions in our world the Sub Committee has had quite a challenge. Pray for God to give them wisdom and direction.

**Annual Gathering 2017 in Pittsburgh** is coming! The AG Committee is working hard to make the arrangements. They are also working on some of the structures surrounding the AG. We praise God for their hard work and attention to details that help the CCCC members in so many diverse ways. Pray for these men and women of God as they give of their time and talents to serve our Great Big Wonderful God.

## AROUND THE WORLD



DR. DEAN CARLSON, President of One Challenge (OC) International, and his wife Kathie, are CCCC International Workers

GO TO: [www.onechallenge.org](http://www.onechallenge.org) to learn more about the work and ministry of the Carlsons and how you can partner with them.

## GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION FORCE

One of the stunning stories of the Great Commission is the turning of the Naga people to Christ. Some 144 years ago, the gospel first came to this head-hunting tribe in the distant hill country of NE India. The love of the Father poured out, and in a relatively short amount of time the movement rippled through their animistic villages. Thousands of Nagas laid down their weapons at the cross of Christ.

A hundred years later, a revival inspired the Naga to further embrace God's heart for the world. At that time, Naga churches made a covenant to send out 10,000 missionaries beyond their cultural boundaries with the good news of Jesus.

For the past quarter century, OC has been helping to fulfill this vision. Grippled by the vision of sending Naga missionaries, Dr. Phuveyi Dozo (OC Global Alliance) started the United College of Theology and Missions (UCTM) in 1992. So far, 500 Naga missionaries have been trained at UCTM and are serving across Asia and around the world. Interestingly, OC's Nepal team is comprised of Naga workers.



The third week of this month, Kathie and I have the joy of visiting Dr. Dozo and the team in Nagaland. I'll be speaking at the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the UCTM, and both of us will speak at the Great Commission Kid's Academy. We are excited to affirm this vibrant expression of God's global mission force. Dr. Dozo, UCTM staff, and students are pictured above.

Currently, we're moving through Indonesia and the Philippines with OC partners and potential recruits on a vision trip. OC has played a significant role in the growth of the Church in the Philippines for the past 50 years through the Discipling a Whole Nation (DAWN) movement. The church in this nation has experienced remarkable growth, multiplying from 5,000 churches in 1975 to 75,000 churches today. The Filipinos are now working toward a national goal of 120,000 churches by 2020. Our work in Southern Africa was inspired over the years by watching God at work in the Philippines.

It was in the Philippines in 1985 that Kathie and I first dove into missions together (pic). God worked deeply in our lives as a young married couple, using trials (typhoid, theft, and accident) and fruitfulness to confirm our shared calling. We'll be visiting OC teams serving in Manila and Davao (site of recent terrorist bombing) from November 5-12.



Would you pray for the Lord to bring encouragement to those we meet, and for his empowerment as we minister in Nagaland? Pray also for the Lord to protect and move the hearts of our traveling companions by his work in these special places.

We're so grateful for your friendship, your prayers and your financial investment in our ministry. *It's teamwork like yours that is taking the gospel to places where Jesus is not yet known!*

## CCCC NEWS

GRANT AWARDED TO  
CCCC CHURCH

The Franklin United Church in Franklin, VT has received a grant of \$46,670 to enable its minister, Dr. Jason R. McConnell to participate in the 2016 National Clergy Renewal Program. Franklin United Church is one of 147 congregations across the United States selected to participate in this competitive grant program, funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. The program's grants allow Christian congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities.

Ministers whose congregations are awarded the grants use their time away from the demands of daily ministry to engage in reflection and renewal, offering ministers a carefully considered respite that may include travel, study, rest, immersive arts and cultural experiences, and prayer.

Through the National Clergy Renewal Program, congregations apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support renewal programs for their pastors. Collaborative in nature and implementation, the program allows congregations to partner with their ministers in developing experiences that addresses their unique renewal needs and aspirations.

Recognizing that ministers' families are subject to the stress and demands placed on pastoral leaders, the program encourages pastors to involve their families in renewal activities. Congregational needs during the

minister's renewal experience also are considered. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used to support interim pastoral leadership during the pastor's retreat, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Since the National Clergy Renewal Program's inception, more than 2,300 congregations have participated in the program.

Dr. McConnell plans to be on sabbat-



ical from May through August of 2017. In addition to other activities, he and his wife Jennifer and their four children will embark upon an adventure titled "Ecumenical Explorations" where they will attend worship services at Christian churches from various denominational backgrounds. They will also spend a month in Europe exploring the roots of the Protestant Reformation during the commemoration of its 500th anniversary. This excursion will take them to Prague, Czech Republic, multiple cities in Germany, and London and Salisbury, England. Additionally they have planned a New England Spiritual Heritage Tour, where they

will visit Plymouth Plantation, Harvard University, Yale University, Salem Witch Museum, and many religious historical sites in and around Boston, MA.

*"The Lilly Endowment intends for this program to enable pastors to live for a while at a different pace and in a new environment, in Sabbath time and space,"* said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment's Vice President for Religion. *"...We regularly hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations."*

The Rev. Robert Saler, research fellow and director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, noted that the National Clergy Renewal Program integrates key attributes of healthy congregations, including mutual respect for the renewal needs of both ministers and the congregations they serve.

*"The program provides an opportunity for congregations to express appreciation for their ministers' service and leadership,"* Saler said. *"At a time when leaders are often praised for their pace of innovation and productivity, the National Clergy Renewal Program pays homage to the timeless wisdom embedded in the practice of reflection and renewal."*

Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis directs the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana congregations and a second program for congregations across the United States through its Center for Pastoral Excellence.

[Excerpt from Lilly Endowment 2016 National Clergy Renewal Program]

## CCCC NEWS

**A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH: CHANGING LIVES (Part 1)**

GEORGE  
ALLEN,  
RETIRED  
CCCC  
PASTOR



I don't have to convince members of our fellowship that it is crucial for Christians to know the Bible—the whole Bible—and know it well. The Bible is a big book, so to know it as we need to in this age of increasing biblical illiteracy requires a system and a plan. *A Light Unto My Path* is my fourth attempt over a period of some twenty years to develop a method of helping my congregations come to grips with this foundation of our faith.

It is easy to make a “through the Bible in a year” program by adding up the chapters in the Bible and dividing by 365, resulting in an assignment of somewhere between three and four chapters a day. Besides getting a bit tedious around Leviticus and postponing the New Testament until into October, this schedule tended to wear down my members who still had to get to work in the morning. I decided the program needed to be more user-friendly.

The first step in this process was extending the schedule from one year to three. This results in a daily assignment of between one and two chapters a day. The Old Testament is scheduled over three years, while the New Testament is read every year, a reasonable ratio for Christian readers. The Psalms and Proverbs are assigned every year because of their special character and use in devotional life. This is not a lectionary program or a selection of scriptures based on political correctness or a theological agenda, but every word of the Bible is included.

The three-year Old Testament schedule, instead of corresponding to the order of the biblical books, is rearranged chronologically. There are widely differing opinions about the dates of certain biblical books, but the chronological arrangement I chose adheres to a traditional conservative standpoint. The book of Job, for instance, appears with the patriarchs of Genesis, because while the conversation between Job and his three “comforters” may be a later creative addition (under the inspiration of a very creative Holy Spirit), the original story in the beginning and closing chapters is, I think, very ancient. The prophets are factored in at the points where they appear in the story of God's relation with Israel.

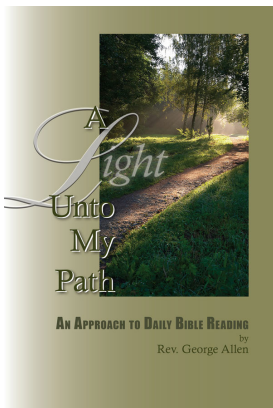
The Psalms and Proverbs are arranged differently each year, individual psalms occasionally inserted at points where they tie in to David's life, and the proverbs are rearranged according to topics, such as finances, rewards, and honesty.

The New Testament is organized around a different focus each year. In year one the gospels are made into a “harmony” to give the account of Jesus' life and ministry as a continuous story, and the rest of the New Testament presents the beginning of the Christian church. The New Testament books for year two are arranged by author, and in year three they are arranged around the main seasons of the Christian year.

This is not a crash program; it is meant to bring about a long-term lifestyle that makes the Bible a part of a daily routine. It is meant to be an adventure of discovery, not a burden. If for any reason a reader falls behind in the schedule, I encourage people to do anything but give up. If it is possible to catch up, do so; if not, just start at the date where you are and pick up the discipline again. If the schedule is too burdensome, put the Old Testament sections on the shelf for a while. All of it does not all have to be accomplished the first year.

Many people from the churches of my earlier ministry tell me they continue to be faithful to this Bible reading schedule. I believe it is a life-changer. It is also a church-changer.

Watch for the conclusion to this series “*A Light Unto My Path: Changing Churches*” next month.



THIS BIBLE  
READING  
RESOURCES  
IS AVAILABLE  
FROM NEXT STEP  
RESOURCES:

GO TO: [www.  
nsresources.com](http://www.nsresources.com)



## CCCC NEWS

## CHANGES &amp; OPPORTUNITIES

## PASTORAL CHANGES

Goffstown, NH Congregational Church of Goffstown\*  
Mark Kraines

## PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

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)  
Parkersburg, IA First Congregational Church\*  
Blue Island, IL Evangelical Community Church\*  
Peoria Heights, IL Peoria Heights Congregational\*  
Peru, IL First Congregational Church  
Pleasanton, KS First Christian Church (Independent)  
Boxford, MA First Church of Boxford\*  
(Minister to Youth and Family)  
Georgetown, MA Byfield Parish (UCC)  
Heath, MA Union Evangelical Church of Heath (Part-time)  
N. Brookfield, MA N Brookfield Congregational\*  
Wilmington, MA Wilmington Congregational  
New Haven, MI First Congregational Church\*  
Klittery Point, ME First Christian Church\* (Part-time)  
Hollandale, MN Hollandale Congregational Church\* (Part-time)  
Shorewood, MN Minnewashta Community Church\*  
Mitchell, NE Federated Church\*  
Seabrook, NH Rand Memorial Church\*  
Lakeview, NY Lakeview Community Church\*  
Lisle, NY Center Lisle Congregational (UCC)  
Marietta, OH St Paul's Evangelical Church (EA)  
Vermillion, OH Vermillion E & R Church\*  
(Part-time music director/keyboardsist)  
Wellington, OH United Church of Huntington\*  
Chicora, PA St Paul's Community Church\*  
McClure, PA Mt Bethel Church\*  
Chepachet, RI Chepachet Union Church  
Chesapeake, VA Rosemont Christian Church\*  
Wilton, WI Faith Congregational Church\*

\* = Conference member | + = In process

## NE REGION

personal lives, one might ask if we have indeed, "set our hearts on things above."

Randy Alcorn quotes Richard Baxter from his book, *The Saints Everlasting Rest*, written in 1649,

*"If there be so certain and glorious a rest for the saints, why is there no more industrious seeking after it? One would think, if a man did but once hear of such unspeakable glory to be obtained, and believed what he heard to be true, he should be transported with the vehemence of his desire after it, and should almost forget to eat and drink and should care for nothing else, and speak of and inquire after nothing else, but how to get this treasure. And yet, people who hear of it daily, and profess to believe it as a fundamental article of their faith, do as little mind it, or labor for it, as if they had never heard of any such thing, or did not believe one word they hear."*

But in fact we do believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, and we would do well to witness to that belief more often by contemplating this ourselves and sharing it with others. We would do well to reverse the amount of time we spend considering the things here below and to focus our hearts on the things above.

One of my favorite quotes that I often have used at funerals is from Dwight L Moody, a man who truly believed in the resurrection:

*"Someday you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal; a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a body fashioned like unto his glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the spirit will forever."*

As always I am grateful to minister with like-minded believers who know the truth and are committed to sharing that truth with those who are saved unto the resurrection of eternal life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation, while there is still time.

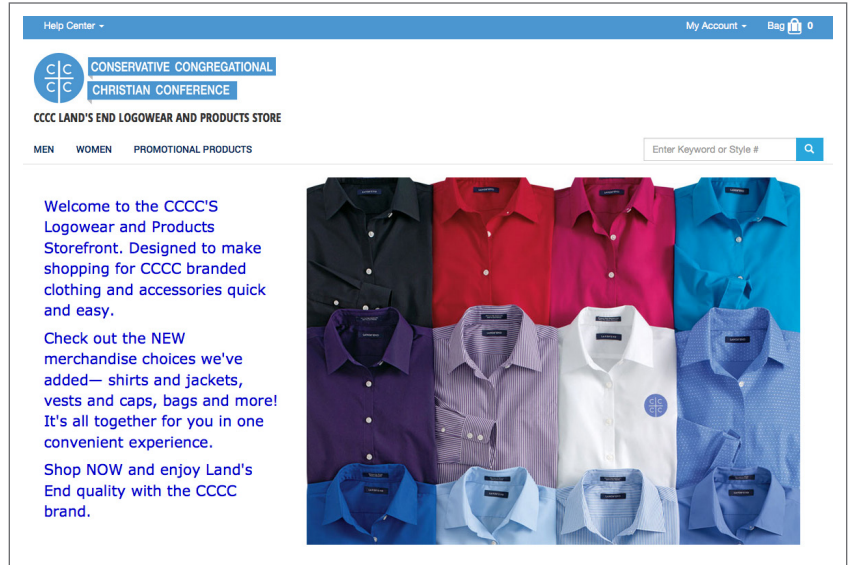
### CCCC LAND'S END LOGOWEAR STORE



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. Place an order now to arrive for the holidays!

CHECK IT OUT AT:

<http://business.landsend.com/store/cccc/>



CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE  
8941 33rd St North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

