



North Central Network

A Publication of the Missionary Church, North Central District

August 2007

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Networking together to fulfill the Great Commission.



prairie camp

**Family Camp
July 27 - August 5**

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GENERAL CONFERENCE MISSIONARY CHURCH, INC.

General Conference Overview

The 2007 General Conference of the Missionary Church was held at the Red Lion Inn in Portland, Oregon, July 10-13. There were 475 delegates and visitors registered. The theme was "MULTIPLY."



President Hossler welcoming the District Superintendents

The North Central District was well represented with thirty-four out of sixty-seven congregations in attendance. I want to thank the boards and congregations for making General Conference a priority and providing the finances necessary for delegates to attend.

(continued on page 2)



PRAIRIE CAMP FAMILY CAMP JULY 27-AUGUST 5



Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

You don't have to stay on the grounds to participate in many of the activities.

Drive-ins welcome!

Check with your church for brochures and at www.prairiecamp.org.

PRAIRIE CAMP CONCERT



Prairie Camp welcomes for the first time, Mark Harris. Mark was one-fourth of the bestselling, Dove Award winning group, 4Him.

Bring your whole family and come be a part of a celebration to close the 2007 Family Camp! The concert is Sunday, August 5th at 4:00pm.

COACHING MOMENT FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



Terry L. Powell

“Believe in them...”

Do you remember the descriptive words Jesus used regarding Simon Peter? Jesus said, “Some men say your name is Simon. But I am going to call you Peter. And upon this rock I will build my church.”

Surely Jesus must have seen something special in this man that He had called to follow Him. We know that Simon was quite impetuous. Several instances in scripture tell us that he had a flaw that needed attention. His imperfection was such that he would not likely be the kind of person upon whom you would consider building an empire. But that was not how Jesus saw it.

Consider the time that Peter wanted to build three tents for the three visitors on the Mount of Transfiguration. Or, the time that he asked to walk to Jesus on the water. Or, the time that he tried to keep Jesus from going to Jerusalem because he was afraid. Or, the time that he cut off the guard’s ear in the Garden after Jesus had preached for three years the importance of following the will of the Father at all costs. Or, the time when he vehemently acknowledged his support for Jesus and that he would follow Christ to the end and then denied Him three times.

But Jesus always saw deeper than anyone else. He knew that all of us are cracked pots. But His best work would always be through those who are simply available. Your beginning credentials are not that important. It is what you do with what you have that makes the difference.

Jesus had to believe in those that He had around Him or He could not have slept at night. They often did not get what He was saying to them. They argued among themselves as to who was really the greatest. They asked for permission to sit on each side of Jesus in heaven. They fell asleep when Jesus asked them to stay alert.

Simply put, Jesus visualized the very best in each disciple. He saw them for what they could be and not what they were at the moment. He poured a mold of greatness for them to fill and ultimately they did just that. Look at Peter, John and James in the book of Acts. Very different people than what is discovered in the Gospels.

People often rise to the occasion when they have someone who truly believes in them. To have someone we admire believe in us can help set our greatness free and liberate us to do great things for God and the Kingdom. I believe that Jesus truly believed in the ones He had called to follow Him. That is a great lesson for all of us to learn and remember.

General Conference Overview (continued)

Reports were given by officers and directors:

- Bill Hossler, President of the Missionary Church
- Dave Mann, Director of World Partners
- Bob Ransom, Director of U.S. Ministries
- Tom Murphy, Director of Development and Communications



Those honored for 50 Years of Service

Ron Hockley, Jan Metzger, Tom Mullins, Bob Sjogren, Dan Southerland and Gary Aupperle shared in the morning and evening sessions. Nineteen seminars and several luncheons were part of a full schedule. Dr. Gordon Bacon was honored for his many years of service to Bethel College as part of the afternoon report of President Steve Cramer. Bethel College also hosted an evening reception.

The Restructuring Commission of the Missionary Church reported and hosted an afternoon forum. The Commission will have a full report, with recommendations, to present at the 2009 conference. Another major discussion item related to the future structure of World Partners. The organizational plan and structure was referred to the General Board for implementation. Joel DeSelm and Dave Engbrecht were reelected to the offices of Vice President and Secretary respectively for a four year term. Momcilo Vincic was elected by the body to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next biennium.

Constitutional items were presented by the Constitutional Commission for discussion, debate and decision. Several items were referred back to the Constitutional Commission for further review and study with the intention of being submitted to the next General Conference.

The 2009 General Conference will be hosted by Bethel College. The dates are July 14-17. This is the first time that a General Conference will be held in the North Central District.

CHURCH UPDATES & NEWS

Church of the Month

**Crossroads
Missionary Church**



**Rev. Chuck Lambdin
Pastor Rick Schultz**



Congratulations to Crossroads Missionary Church who celebrated a ground breaking ceremony on July 8, 2007. The project includes a gymnasium, fellowship hall and office space.



On Sunday, June 10th, **Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church (Rev. Bill Richardson)** honored **Rev. Russ and Becky Hunsberger** for 20 years of service. Congratulations!

On July 1st, The Revolution church plant held a service (Sunday Night Live) at The Flava, a nightclub in Gary. This came on the heels of a community outreach in the form of a

basketball camp. That night 47 people took part in hip hop and R&B styled worship and God's word was brought in a relevant way. Two people came forward for prayer and further commitment to Christ. The Revolution holds monthly Sunday Night Live services as they prepare to launch weekly on October 7th. "We are excited at what the Lord is doing," shares Rev. Ryan Flemming.



Congratulations to **Rev. Aaron Burdin** who was ordained on June 3rd at **Hillside Missionary Church**. He serves as an associate pastor and works with the youth.

Berea Missionary Church welcomes **Rev. Ken Chupp** who will be serving as their interim pastor.

Recent Prayer Requests and Praises:

- Pray for the congregations that are searching for their next pastor: Berea, LaGrange, Sturgis.
- **Phyllis Bacon** (Gordon) fell and broke her arm while in Florida. Praise for the successful surgery on her hand. Continue to pray for her healing.
- **Ryan Flemming** & Joanna had their home broken into and personal items stolen. Praise that none of the church equipment was taken. Pray for their community.
- **Jeff Seaver** praises God and thanks everyone for praying this past year. His health continues to improve with eventually the need to be on only one med per day.
- **Rev. Bill Hesse** has started radiation treatment. Continue to pray for his healing.
- Continue to pray for the health issues of some of the spouses of our pastors: Nancy Lee Ashley, Angie Lamason, and Davida Swisher.
- Praise God for His movement at summer camp! Continue to remember those who have made decisions while at camp.
- Family Camp and Teen Camp programs.

Network News



Congratulations to ...

Chris and Rose Lehane on the birth of **Jordyn Grace**. She was born on July 14th.

Gospel Center Missionary Church hosts CCN Simulcast Events: chusted@gcmc.info

Aug 28 Practical Steps for Improving Your Worship Service, 12:00-1:00pm

Sept 6 How to Build Marriages: Talking about Sex with Your Congregation, 11:30am-12:30pm

Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" 13 week course starts Sept. 6th. Call the church for registration 574-288-4477.

Wakarusa Missionary Church invites you to a High Quality Children's Clothing and High Quality Resale on Saturday, September 22nd from 8:00 am-12:30 pm. Contact: Sarah Freitas, Resale Coordinator at 574-862-1628.

The North Central District has set up a benevolence fund for credentialed persons. Contributions should be made payable and mailed to:

Missionary Church N.C. District
3301 Benham Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46517

If your church would like to list items to sell or give away in this column, please send an email to: cheryl@mcncd.org by the 20th of the month.

We reserve the right to edit what is listed in this *Networking* column.

ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

MIKE PETERS, ASSISTANT TO THE D.S.



Dr. Stan Toler

Building Kingdom Stewards

With Dr. Stan Toler

Saturday, September 29, 2007

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church

“Your church will never be the same after you attend this practical, encouraging seminar.”

WHO Should Attend

- Pastors and Church Staff
- Church Treasurers & Finance Committee Chairpersons
- Church Board Members
- Finance Ministry Team Members
- Interested Laypersons

WHAT You'll Learn

- Exciting ways to increase your weekly offerings
- Building a church budget
- Financing ministry in the local church
- Planned giving & estate planning
- Teaching people to be financially free
- Current trends in paying the pastoral staff
- Capital stewardship campaigns & debt reduction
- Financing church building programs

HOW You'll Benefit

- You'll learn to think globally as well as locally
- You'll learn how to develop stewardship leaders
- You'll learn how to develop your leadership base
- You'll learn how to create positive stewardship attitudes

Featuring the teaching of best-selling author and international seminar leader, Dr. Stan Toler. He is currently the senior pastor of the Trinity Church of the Nazarene.

Register now: www.mcncd.org or cheryl@mcncd.org or by calling the District Office 574-293-1332.

This seminar is provided free of charge for pastors and their key lay leaders. Attending this seminar will meet 1/2 of a credentialed person's annual continuing education requirement.

Network News

Looking ahead:

JOY Rally

Aug. 2 at Prairie Camp
1:30 pm The Hueni Musicians in the tabernacle

New Pastor's Orientation

(by invitation)
August 20-21

Pastor's & Wives Retreat

Oakwood Inn
September 10-12

Women's Retreat

October 12 & 13 @ Essenhaus
Contact your church's Women's Ministries Director or Missy Bayer at 574-259-5971.

Bethel College is offering a Master of Arts in Theological Studies and a Master of Ministries Program for 2007-08. These programs highlight ministry, no matter what the specific course. Remember that Missionary Church ministers get a discount toward courses and scholarship monies from Headquarters.

For information on classes offered at Bethel College as well as The Chapel in Fort Wayne contact Jennifer Meert: meertj@bethelcollege.edu or Dr. Gene Carpenter, Director, MATS/MMIN Programs 574-257-3332; carping@bethelcollege.edu

Breaking the 100 Barrier with Dr. Conrad Lowe:

Videos of the seminar are now available for a cost of \$20 for the set. This includes 4 DVDs and the student notes. To order: cheryl@mcncd.org or call 574-293-1332.

Hillside Gospel-Bluegrass Jamboree 3rd Thursday of every month, 6:30-9:00pm, 21567 W. Ireland Rd., South Bend IN. For information call the church: 574-292-2864. Bring your instrument and join in.

**Missionary Church
North Central District, Inc.**

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We're on the Web!
www.mcncd.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



AUGUST

- 2 JOY Rally at camp
- 5 Mark Harris concert at camp
- 5 Stats due
- 14 RPM –Central & Western @ Cedar Rd.
- 15 UMLI Board meeting
- 17 RPM—Eastern @ Pleasant Hill
- 20-21 New Pastor Orientation
- 21-22 E-3 Cluster Leader Retreat

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Labor Day—District Office Closed
- 4,6,18 Lay Officials Orientation
- 5 Stats due
- 9 Grandparent’s Day
- 10-12 Pastors & Wives Retreat
- 14-15 Hispanic Boot Camp
- 26 See You at the Pole
- 29 Enrichment Seminar

**PRAIRIE CAMP
“MAKA MAKA”**



News of the **Summer Camp Program** from our **Camp Director, Carrie Badertscher:**



“There are times in my life when I truly underestimate the power of God. I somehow forget that He is in total control. It’s in these times that I find myself on my knees before the Lord, begging for forgiveness and telling myself that ‘next time, I won’t forget how big He really is.’ I have found myself in that very place several times this summer. Time after time I was reminded that God really does have a purpose much greater than mine and that His plan is far more extravagant than mine could ever be.



I’ve been around summer camp for 12 years in one capacity or another, but never have I experienced such a summer as we have had these last few months. God has been present in a way I can’t define. I see Him in the eyes of our counselors as they give even when they have nothing else to give. I see Him in the praise and worship of the kindergartner that bellows with all their might “There is no one like our God!” I’ve even seen Him in the weather, in the way He protects and guides even through the worst of storms. God is present at Prairie Camp. I’ll never forget watching that little girl with her head bowed gently in her hands, asking God to be her forever Friend. I still laugh when I think about that vibrant child yelling “I hope tomorrow is



like a year because I love this place!” And how could I ever thank God enough when I think of that counselor declaring that they had felt God call them into full time ministry the night before at campfire. God is using Prairie Camp to change lives and expand His Kingdom. We as a staff are holding on tight, waiting in anticipation to see what God will do next. We believe that He has (at least) one more move for the ministry of Prairie Camp.”

