



# North Central Network

A Publication of the Missionary Church, North Central District

September 2009

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## RESOURCE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

**WE EXIST TO RESOURCE  
AND  
SUPPORT OUR PASTORS  
AND CHURCHES  
TO ASSIST THEM  
IN BUILDING  
HEALTHY MINISTRIES.**



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## FALL ENRICHMENT SEMINAR



We are honored to have Mark Mittelberg coming **September 26th** to the MCNCD Fall Seminar at **Brenneman Memorial Church**. Mark will be speaking about personal evangelism and the adventure and excitement of sharing Christ. This is not just for pastors! This is a topic that is relevant to all followers of Christ. We would encourage you to bring as many from your congregation as you can. Information and the registration form are available online at [www.mcncd.org](http://www.mcncd.org). The registration fee is **\$25 per**

**person**, but for MCNCD churches we would like to make the following offer:

After receiving one paid registration from your church (pastor, staff or layman), all others from your church may register free of charge. We only require that all intending to participate would register in advance of the seminar so that we may plan accordingly.

Mark Mittelberg is a best-selling author, sought-after speaker, and a leading strategist in evangelism and apologetics-oriented outreach. He is the primary author (along with Lee Strobel and Bill Hybels) of the recently updated *Becoming a Contagious Christian Training Course*, through which more than a million people around the world have learned to effectively and naturally communicate their faith to others.

Mark's newest book (written with Lee Strobel and released in May of 2009), *The unexpected Adventure*, is a six-week devotional designed to inspire individual Christians as well as entire congregations to enter the excitement of sharing Christ.

**September 26**

**\$25 for first reservation (MCNCD)**

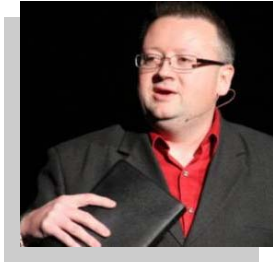
**Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church**

**9:00am-3:00pm**

**Registration begins at 8:00am**

**Registration forms available at: [www.mcncd.org](http://www.mcncd.org)**

## COACHING MOMENT



Chris Knight

### What is the Condition of your Heart?

It is Monday, August 24, 2009 at 12:57 in the morning and I am writing an article for you to read in this month's edition of the district newsletter. As I spent time this evening pondering what to pen, I'm stuck thinking about the condition of our hearts. The more that I think about this incredible organ, the more I am drawn to the value that scripture places on the health of our spiritual heart.

I took the time this evening to research the role of the heart on [webMD.com](http://webMD.com). I found that heart disease is a leading cause of death among Americans. In their studies of patients with heart disease they listed several key reasons why an individual develops this condition. The list included, but was not limited, to the following:

- (1) Uncontrolled hypertension (high blood pressure)
- (2) Bad habits (smoking)
- (3) Physical inactivity and obesity (more than 20% over one's ideal body weight)
- (4) Uncontrolled stress and anger

As I considered the list, I was drawn to the spiritual heart disease that has wreaked havoc in our country, churches and pulpits for years. I believe that heart disease is not only a leading cause of physical death, but spiritual death as well. Consider the list of key reasons an individual develops heart disease and let's look at them through the spiritual lens.

#### (1) Uncontrolled "pressure"

I know that many times pastoring and pressure go hand in hand. How we choose to deal with the pressure is the key to not allowing it to have a damaging effect on our ministry and life.

How are you handling the pressures of ministry? When pressure is intense, how do you medicate?  
Are you doing things that someone else could assist you with? Have you made your intense pressures known to others?

#### (2) Bad habits

Just as we see this play itself out in our physical heart, there are habits that if left to freely reign, will lead to spiritual heart disease. Consider the negative habits in your spiritual walk and develop a plan to replace them with heart healthy habits.

#### (3) Inactivity and obesity

If you are like me, we know way more than we put into practice. Without a proper exercise regiment the muscle of our heart will weaken, making it susceptible to negative influence. Determine your area of weakness and schedule a workout! I think that it should be noted that obesity did not happen overnight, therefore we cannot expect the repair to obesity to happen in a short period of time. This will take a deep level of persistent commitment to overcome.

#### (4) Uncontrolled stress and anger

Welcome to ministry, right? You may be tempted to consider eliminating stress and anger by eliminating boards and committees, but that is not what I am suggesting!! I hear pastors joke about how their church would run much smoother without people! As true as that might be at certain times, we know that is not the proper position to take up.

How are you working with people? Are you practicing humility and care? Are the fruit of the spirit evident in your life? Is there someone or something that needs to receive your forgiveness and grace?

Did you know that there are 743 references in the NIV for the word heart? I will spare you the in-depth analysis of all of them, but I want to encourage you with one of my favorite passages. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your **hearts** and your minds in Christ Jesus."

If you are having problems with your physical heart, I want to encourage you to take it seriously. Do not mess around with a leading cause of death. Make an appointment with your physician. You are a valuable member of our team.

If you are having problems with your spiritual heart, I want to encourage you to take it seriously. Do not mess around with a leading cause of spiritual death. Make an appointment with the Physician. You are a valuable member of His team!

You Are Blessed...Be A Blessing!

Chris

# CHURCH UPDATES & NEWS

## Churches of the Month



**Iglesia Getsemani Missionary Church**  
**Pastor Jorge Maldonado**



**California Road Missionary Church**  
**Rev. Bud Walterhouse**

When Jorge Maldonado, the Pastor of Iglesia Getsemani in Elkhart, found out that the church's landlord was asking them to be out of their current facility by July 31st, there weren't many options. There was a building on the market that Getsemani was interested in, but there was no way that everything could be approved and closed to get them into that building by the end of July. Jorge had concerns about what going several weeks without a place to meet could do to the momentum and excitement that had been building at Getsemani.

Fortunately, God used California Road Missionary Church as an answer to prayer in a time of need. Pastor Bud Walterhouse, and the congregation at California Road, welcomed in the people of Getsemani and allowed them the use of their building for both Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening services. For a three week period the churches shared the same facility. We applaud this example of teamwork and brotherhood between two pastors who had never even known each other prior to this chain of events.

We can now congratulate Iglesia Getsemani on the purchase of their first building! The church held their first service in the new facility on August 23, 2009. The church is located at 1226 Cedar St. in Elkhart, Indiana. Their Sunday School meets at 1:00pm on Sundays followed by Worship at 2:00pm with midweek service held on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

## Networking

Pray for our churches who are seeking their next pastor:

- Osolo Missionary Church**
- Gospel Center Missionary Church**



**Wakarusa Missionary Church** holds its fall and winter **Children's Resale** on Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 8:00am—1:00pm. The church is located at 202 West Waterford Street in Wakarusa. There will be over 230 sellers at this year's event. Bring your own shopping bag or basket and join the fun! For more information call the church: 574.862.2102 or go to: [www.freewebs.com/wakarusaesale](http://www.freewebs.com/wakarusaesale).



**Rev. Bryan Balasa** was installed as Senior Pastor at the **Crossroads Missionary Church** on August 9th. Bryan has been serving in the Midwest District. We welcome Bryan, Pam, and their family back to the North Central District!



**Zion Missionary Church (Rev. Joe Wenger)** presents Dave Ramsey's Total Money Makeover LIVE simulcast event on Saturday, September 19th from 1-6pm. Presented by nationally syndicated radio host and best selling author Dave Ramsey, this event is packed with energy and humor, and is the largest event on personal finance in the country. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person and you will receive a workbook to follow along with the presentation. Paid reservations are required. For more details or to reserve your ticket, call the church office at 574-293-5541.



The **NCD Women's Ministry** sponsored "Female Frivolity" in the youth tent at Prairie Camp. Kevin Eyer, Elkhart County 4-H cook-off winner, prepared a delicious lunch. All were blessed hearing from missionaries Grace McBrier, Jan Metzger, Heather Murray, and Debbie Jones. Karen Ponce shared beauty tips and Officer Dawn Raider of Elkhart Police shared information on personal safety issues. Ninety ladies/girls had a great time of dining, sharing, and praying together.

Congratulations to the newly licensed ministers in the North Central District:

- Pastor George Milliman**  
Senior Pastor  
Burr Oak Missionary Church
- Pastor Rod Tackett**  
Associate/Youth  
Beulah Missionary Church
- Pastor Jamie Stiffler**  
Assistant to the Pastor  
Warsaw Missionary Church



Hillside Gospel/Bluegrass Jamboree takes place each month at **Hillside Missionary Church** on the 3rd Thursday from 6:30—9:00pm. For more information: 574-784-8222.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT



Bethel College, Mishawaka IN  
July 14-17, 2009

General Conference was a time of spiritual blessing as those who attended were touched by the speakers and prayer times. Rev. Bill Hossler (pictured left) was re-elected as President of the Missionary Church. The proposal for the reorganization of the Denomination was approved. An interim General Oversight Counsel was elected to help

implement this plan. A number of our North Central District pastors met milestones in their service with the Missionary Church and were honored at this year's event:

**50 Years of Service:** Bob & Donna Eagle, Don Matteson, John & Retha Moran, Dale & Elaine Walterhouse

**40 Years of Service:** Norman & Linda Fuller, Gary & Linda Hinkle, Norman and JoLynn Reimer, David & Ruth Ann Waid

**30 Years of Service:** Orville & Rita Banks, Nat & Donna Brown, Ronald & Carol Drake

**20 Years of Service:** Terry & Kelly Bley, Donald Johnson, Mike & Carol Peters, Kevin & Andrea Skaggs

**10 Years of Service:** Bob & Joyce Laurent, Jeremy & Ann LeVan, Kent & Gina Norr, Ryan & Karen Powell, Derry & Janelle Prenkert, Robbie & Jeanie Prenkert, Patrick & Josie Puglisi, Bill & Geneva Richardson, Cory & Crystal Weatherton

## TEEN QUIZZING



The North Central District Teen Quizzing Program wrapped up its 2008-09 season in July by celebrating several first and second place finishes in both team and individual competition at Denominational International Teen Quizzing finals held at Bethel College. **Diamond Cove Missionary Church** captured first place in both Division I (Experienced) and Division 2 (Rookies). **Hannah Breden from Diamond Cove** (pictured top left) placed first in the One on One competition and was chosen as the Missionary Church's Most Valuable Quizzer for her overall performance, team leadership and example. The North Central District All-Star team (pictured bottom left) placed second in round-robin competition among the five current quiz districts of the Missionary Church. Bethel College awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarship awards to top quizzers during this season!



Informational meetings for the 2009-10 season are scheduled for: September 5 at 10am at Pleasant Hill Missionary Church, Bronson, MI and September 12 at 10am at St. Mark Missionary Church, Mishawaka, IN. This season will study I and II Corinthians. For more information: Chris Greeney 574.229.7803 or [cgreeney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgreeney@sbcglobal.net).

## Networking



The North Central District Women's Ministry presents a Ladies' One Day Retreat on October 10, 2009 at the Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center, Middlebury, IN. The retreat will be 9:30am—4:30pm and costs \$35 per person for all sessions and lunch. The special guest speaker will be **Shari Minke**. Optional night stay is available for October 9th. Make your room reservation by September 9 by calling the Essenhaus Inn directly at 800.455.9471. Craft workshops will be available on Friday, October 9th at 4pm. For **Registration forms** go to: [www.mcncd.org/ministries/women](http://www.mcncd.org/ministries/women). Retreat Chairperson, Missy Bayer: 574.259.5971.

### Children's Quizzing

Schedule for the 2009-10 season:  
Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 15-16,  
Feb. 13, Mar. 20  
They will be quizzing over Luke 1-11.  
For more information: Diane Howard  
574.254.0720 or  
[diane32056@msn.com](mailto:diane32056@msn.com).

**World Partners Immigrant Ministries** presents an opportunity for you to make an impact on the lives of future leaders from around the world by being a **Friendship Family** for a Notre Dame International Student. A Friendship Family will invite students over to their home for holidays and other social occasions to feel they have a family in America. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact World Partners Immigrant Ministries staff members: Terry Murray at 574.252.4623 or Bill Rieth at 574.536.4299.

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

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### September

- 5 Stats due
- 5 Teen Quiz Informational Meeting  
@ Pleasant Hill
- 7 Labor Day  
District Resource Center Closed
- 12 Teen Quiz Informational Meeting  
@ St. Mark
- 23 See You at the Pole
- 26 Mark Mittelberg Seminar

### October (Pastor Appreciation Month)

- 5 Stats due
- 10 District Women's Retreat
- 12 Columbus Day
- 16 Boss's Day
- 25 Reformation Sunday

## DISTRICT PRAYER UPDATE

### Recent Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Praise** for the many decisions made at Prairie Camp throughout the summer camps and at the family and teen camps.
- **Willowdean Gerber**, wife of Dr. Wayne Gerber, has gone home to be with the Lord on August 27th. Pray for the family for strength and encouragement during this time.
- **Rev. Jim Bennett** had quadruple bypass surgery in July and continues his recovery.
- **Rev. Bill McVay** is currently recovering from pneumonia.
- **Dr. Norman Bridges** (NCMEF- Director) is under the care of the Goshen Cancer Center and working with an oncologist there. Janice had knee replacement surgery on August 3rd and is progressing well.
- **Maggie Jernas**, who is 3 years old, has been diagnosed with neuroblastoma and has undergone the first of two stem cell transplants. Pray that her platelet count continues to rise and for Maggie's parents, **Rodney and Rachel Jernas**, on staff at Nappanee Missionary Church, for strength and encouragement. Maggie is **Rev. Bill & Silvia Greenwood's** (Pleasant Ridge) granddaughter. Updates can be found at: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/maggiejernas](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/maggiejernas).
- Continue to pray for the health issues of some of the spouses of our pastors: **Nancy Lee Ashley, Angie Lamason, Cindy Maynard, Jean Breniser**.

