



Community

For more than 40 years, Alan Law has delivered food to the needy

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Jin Kim

Where are the young people?

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State Fair

New Crossroads Chapel location will expand ministry

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FREE



Marcus and Michele Bachmann have five biological children and have cared for nearly two dozen foster children over the years.

Staying the course

Marcus Bachmann says facing hardship is part of life

By Scott Noble

TWIN CITIES — Running for president can be an incredibly taxing experience: seemingly endless travel, media and personal appearances several times a day and opponents—and others—going through your positions, beliefs and personal history looking for anything that could be considered controversial. Usually, the controversial component is directed at the presidential candidate personally.

However, in the case of Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann—currently the sixth district congresswoman from Minnesota—much criticism has been directed at her husband Marcus. While the outspoken Michele has received her fair share of push back from the media and her opponents, both in her Congressional career and recently as a presidential candidate, the attention given to Marcus has been unprecedented for a spouse in a political campaign.

When the couple decided that Michele would run for president, however, Marcus said: “We knew the road would be long and difficult. But we also knew that America is headed in the wrong direction and that Michele is the right person to turn America around.”

Believing that criticism is a part of life, Marcus said their faith has helped them navigate through it.

“Facing hardships is a part of life,” he said. “A Christian’s example is Jesus Christ and if we believe His Word, He will be with us at all times. Faith is a tremendous asset, giving us purpose and a hope in our lives.”

However, witnessing your spouse as the center of criticism—regardless of a presidential campaign—is never easy. But the Bachmanns have held firm to their belief in the value of truth and fighting for what they believe.

“Michele likes to say that she

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Noble achievement

Bethel grad and Minnesota resident nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

By Scott Noble

BLOOMINGTON — In high school, Stephanie Hope Smith would pray that God would help her to see people as He sees them. As she grew older and began training for a career as a medical provider, her prayers focused on how God could open her heart and mind to see people His way in order for her to deal effectively with people in her particular field.

Years—and a move from Missouri to Minnesota—later, Smith is allowing God to place her in other people’s shoes and attempt to understand how they see and view and even feel about the world. This is taking shape in her work with First Nations communities in Minnesota.

Birth of an idea

The Bethel University graduate attended the 2002 Olympics, using her background in sports medicine to work with ice hockey competitors. While serving in Salt Lake City, Utah, Smith had the opportunity to see “firsthand how all these different nonprofit organizations were working with the faith-based community, working with government, working with the private sector to achieve this bigger-than-life thing—to pull off the Olympics,” she said. “It took everybody focused on this big thing to distract from the petty things that they had against each other.”

When she returned to her home in Bloomington, Minn., after the Games, she described an “ah-ha” moment she had, think-



Nobel Peace Prize nominee Stephanie Hope Smith participated in erecting a peace pole during World Peace and Prayer Day June 19 in Mendota.

ing: “What if we could create that kind of relationship on an ongoing basis? What would unite people together?”

Her time spent wrestling with this question ultimately led her to the Fort Snelling property, a historic Minnesota fort built in the 1820s that is the center of much regional history. Smith looked at

Fort Snelling because she began to think “about a location where lots of different groups could be brought together that have a collaborative mindset to work on a big project or something that they already have in common,” she recounted.

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Leith Anderson to retire from Wooddale Church

By Scott Noble

EDEN PRAIRIE — Leith Anderson, senior pastor of the 5,000-member Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, announced his retirement from the pulpit on Wednesday, June 29, effective at the end of the year. Anderson spent more than 30 years as senior pastor of the influential west-metro church, beginning in 1977. He will be named pastor emeritus and minister-at-large.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Anderson is currently president of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the flagship organization for the nation’s millions of evangelicals, a position he will retain.

Since 1977, Wooddale has grown to thousands of attendees at its main campus in Eden Prairie and



Pastor Leith Anderson has announced his retirement, which will be effective at the end of the year.

has established 10 congregations around the Twin Cities and one in Nisswa. In addition to church plant-

ing, Wooddale is also known for its disaster relief and efforts to assist those with HIV/AIDS.

“Wooddale Church has been my ministry home for most of my life,” Anderson said via a media release. “I love the church and the people. God’s blessings have been many and wonderful. It is a privilege to have served this congregation for so long, to know that the church is now strong and healthy and to look forward to what God will do in the future with a new senior pastor.”

Anderson also has several other ministry outlets. He is the author of more than a dozen books, including “Jesus: An Intimate Portrait of the Man, His Land, and His People,” and has daily radio and television shows. FaithMatters and FaithMinute can be seen and heard on a variety of outlets throughout

Twin Cities. The spots apply faith to various areas of everyday life.

Current presidential candidate and former governor of Minnesota, Tim Pawlenty, attends Wooddale Church, and Anderson has frequently been referred to as “Tim Pawlenty’s pastor.”

The Rev. Bob Merritt, senior pastor of Eagle Brook Church, one of the state’s largest churches, remembers a class Anderson taught at Bethel Seminary.

“The leadership lessons I learned from that class and from Leith’s three outstanding books were pivotal in my development as a young pastor,” Merritt said. “Since that time, for the past 35 years, I have known Leith to be the consummate leader, full of

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For more than 40 years, Alan Law has delivered food to needy

By Scott Noble

MINNEAPOLIS — “When I was in college, I wanted to be a rich businessman, but I always had this compassion for the poor,” Alan Law said. Decades later, his desire for riches had long since been replaced by an overwhelming desire to sacrifice his comfort and finances to help those in need.

A typical day for Law—day and night blend into one continuous sequence in his world—involves 18 hours of delivering sandwiches to those in need, giving people dollar bills so they can ride the bus to get out of Minnesota’s extreme weather and taking impoverished kids to a museum, mall or some other place they probably have never before visited.

After-school program

Someone told Law many years ago that if he wanted to reach kids, he should become a Middle School teacher. At the time, he was considering becoming a social worker, a position that he thought would allow him to demonstrate his passion and commitment to helping others.

But he took that person’s advice. “The first day teaching in south Minneapolis,” Law said, “I realized ... a lot of these kids ... the poverty was so obvious.”

That observation only seemed to encourage Law to dive into the situation headfirst.

“I started what I called my ‘after-school program,’” he said, which involved staying after school and doing activities with the kids. “Within a couple of weeks, I found myself with dozens and dozens of kids. This continued to grow in size for 29 years. I paid for the program, and we called it the Minneapolis Recreation Development.”

Since the program wasn’t incorporated, Law paid for everything out of his pocket.

“I would take 38 and 40 kids at a time,” Law said. “In [the] summer, they would always look forward ... for most of the kids ... the first time they had ever been to Valley Fair, the Science Museum, the Mall of American [and] Underwater World. The whole idea has been to give these kids an opportunity to experience things they normally wouldn’t. Ninety-nine percent or more have no father; a lot of them



Alan Law regularly took dozens of kids to amusement parks, museums and other attractions few had ever visited.

have no mother; they are living with cousins or whatever.”

This also included taking kids to movies, sometimes being solely responsible for dozens and dozens of kids.

Almost from the beginning of his teaching career (in which he retired in 1999), Law also delivered food. The program, which is called the 363 Days Food Program, deals mainly with sandwiches and other food Law is able to obtain. The name came from conversations he had many years ago with social service agencies and shelters. They asked Law if he was planning to pass out sandwiches on Thanksgiving and Christmas. He responded, “You take care of Thanksgiving and Christmas, and we will take care of the other 363 days a year.”

When the outreach began, Law would purchase the sandwiches from convenience stores when they were close to their “sell by” date. Currently, most of the sandwiches are made by churches and then stored in freezers until they are delivered.

Law has 10 freezers alone in his apartment; eight are in his living room, and another 25 freezers are located around the Twin Cities.

In 2010, he passed out 520,000 sandwiches to those in need; this year he projects to hand out 800,000.

Law also has a Samaritans Outreach Program, where he helps people with water, co-payments for homeless people and others who can’t afford medical assistance, and for people who have no place to go.

Why he does it

Over the years, a lot of people have asked Law why he invests so much of his time and money into helping others.

He said that kids would tell him that the other social service agencies were closed at night, and he



Last year alone, Alan Law delivered more than 500,000 sandwiches to the needy in the Twin Cities.

was the only one involved every day. “It’s the way I feel; I just care,” he said. “It’s the old Golden Rule: If I

see people that are homeless, that are sleeping on the floor, and if I can help them in some way I’m go-

ing to help them.”

When social service agencies fill up at night, people who are left out don’t have a place to go, don’t have anything to drink or even have restroom facilities.

Over the years, Law has been the recipient of countless awards for his service—from recognition by presidents and senators to being a recipient of an “Eleven Who Care” award to a McKnight Foundation award.

Yet, that is not why he spends nearly his entire day helping others—often only getting a few hours of sleep each 24-hour period.

“The truth is, this is my life,” Law said. “It’s not a dedication. I don’t look at it as anything other than just part of my life. I will never stop doing this, ever.”

ACTIONPOINT

For more information on Alan Law and the Minneapolis Recreation Development, Inc., visit www.mrdinc.org. Law is currently looking for churches, businesses and individuals who are willing to help with making sandwiches.

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RETIREMENT...

Continued from page 1

integrity, and one of the most solid pastors and leaders in the nation and world. Leith is one of the great ones. I am indebted to him as one of my main mentors in life and ministry."

Troy Dobbs, who is the senior pastor of Grace Church in Eden Prairie, remembered when he came to Grace, a short distance from Wooddale, and how Anderson welcomed him and his family.

"[Anderson] and his wife were the first people from the Christian community to connect with us when we came to Grace Church," Dobbs said. "He also invited me to a Wooddale staff luncheon as their guest of honor—and welcomed me and prayed for me and shared how much they (the Wooddale team) were 'pulling' for Grace to make a huge Kingdom impact! Leith has gone out of his way to offer me his support and friendship and advice—I count him as

a godly mentor and friend."

Over his decades in ministry, Anderson has developed a reputation of strong leadership and an ability to work with people from a variety of perspectives, as evidenced by his work with the NAE.

Carl Nelson, who is president and CEO of the Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals, has seen firsthand Anderson's leadership and commitment to building the NAE.

"The NAE is flourishing under Leith's leadership, and I and other NAE board members are very grateful that he will continue as president of NAE," Nelson said. "One sign of his successful leadership at NAE is that new denominations and evangelical organizations are joining the association because they recognize the leading role that NAE has taken in shaping the evangelical movement in America."

For more information about Wooddale Church and Leith Anderson, visit www.wooddale.org.

Local leaders comment on Leith Anderson's retirement

"Something that doesn't get enough attention is the close companionship between Leith and his wife Charlene. She is his constant companion almost everywhere he goes, and she is really engaged with the issues, topics and ideas that Leith is engaged in. Their marriage and friendship is a marvelous example to other Christian leaders."

— Carl Nelson, president and CEO of the Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals

"Throughout his long and distinguished career in ministry, Leith proved himself to be a passionate and exceptionally gifted leader, an innovative pioneer and an insightful visionary. Leith's leadership, writings and personal example have made a profound and lasting impact on the church in America. Thank you, Leith, for your exemplary service to Jesus Christ and to his church!"

— Greg Boyd, senior pastor, Woodland Hills Church in Maplewood

"From Leith Anderson, younger pastors can learn the value of 1) organizing for ministry effectiveness, 2) preaching the Gospel with integrity and clarity, 3) planting dynamic churches, 4) cheering on other churches and leaders, 5) understanding the cultural issues of the day and 6) modeling humility and integrity in and out of the pulpit."

— Troy Dobbs, senior pastor, Grace Church in Eden Prairie

"I was in the worship service at Wooddale when Leith preached an amazing message on the glory of God. That was over 30 years ago, but I still remember the example Leith used when Tylenol had to restore its reputation when it had become synonymous with poison. Leith used it as an example of how God's image has been tarnished and why He deserves all glory. I was totally in awe during that service—that was the weekend Leith was casting the vision for the new campus."

— Bob Merritt, senior pastor, Eagle Brook Church

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Local group helps Haitians produce biodiesel fuel

By Joe Winter

RIVER FALLS, Wisc. — Some western Wisconsin parishioners have taken the sister church concept to a new level. They plan to help Haitians toward economic sustainability by growing a cash crop that can produce a fuel much like petroleum.

The ecumenical group from River Falls, Wisc., plans as a first step to raise \$1 million for planting 50 acres of jatropha trees. The trees are only 10 feet tall, but they pack an economic punch. Jatropha seeds, after brief processing, can create biodiesel fuel with many uses. One acre can produce 330 gallons a year from the fig-like fruit.

Patrick O'Malley of River Falls pursued this dream to benefit Ganthier, a Haitian town with a population of 71,000, before the devastating 2010 earthquake. Once established there, he hoped to spread this biodiesel industry throughout the entire country.

The dream is moving closer to reality. A several-page plan written mostly

by Lutheran parishioner Curt Larson was presented to the United Nations leadership in March in an effort to obtain funding.

"Curt Larson and I think this could be a whole economy for the country of Haiti," O'Malley said. "It would be run by local farmers and keep government and big oil out of it."

He added that the tree is found in surrounding countries but that with its profitable uses, there could never be too much of the fuel or a glutted market.

The tree does have its limits though. "It can't take a frost, so it can't be produced in northern climates," O'Malley said.

The trees, which live up to 60 years, can grow in poor soil that is otherwise devoid of trees and even take root in crevices between rocks, Larson said.

"It won't tolerate—and doesn't require—a lot of water either," O'Malley added, noting that between those two conditions, there is plenty of otherwise unusable land in Haiti.

The fuel created can also be utilized for cooking, fires, supplying stoves and a variety of other uses.

"When processed into biodiesel, it can be used to fuel vehicles such as cars and trucks as well," Larson said, adding that this would require the fuel to be more refined in order to remove certain naturally occurring waxing agents.

Haiti has a high level of unemployment, and people need work badly, Larson said, so the planting effort could be gainful in that way. The plant also

will lessen erosion, which is a major problem in Haiti; other useful crops can grow in the spaces between the trees.

Farmers would grow the trees on about 50 parcels of four to five acres each. The plots are grouped together and have a centrally located cooperative for processing.

The locally based group, named Haitian Relief Services, has already raised \$320,000 for various projects, including a school. An annual "It Takes A Village" concert, which features local

church musicians, usually raises more than \$7,000.

The group also is researching grants through agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is working with Haiti's minister of finance to acquire land for planting.

ACTIONPOINT

For more information about the effort, contact Patrick O'Malley at (715) 425-9882.

Alliance Defense Fund sends letter to Anoka-Hennepin School District Supports current District policy on sexual orientation stance

By Scott Noble

ANOKA — The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) sent a letter in late June to the Anoka-Hennepin School District urging the District to retain its policy of neutrality on "sexual orientation." The District, which is the largest in the state with some 40,000 students in more than three dozen schools, has come under fire recently as a result of several incidents alleging bullying tied to victims' sexual orientation.

The ADF letter cited recent demands by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) for the District to repeal its current policy.

The District's policy on sexual orientation reads: "Teaching about sexual orientation is not a part of the District adopted curriculum; rather, such matters are best addressed within individual family homes, churches or community organizations. Anoka-Hennepin staff, in the course of their professional duties, shall remain neutral on matters regarding sexual orientation including but not limited to student led discussions."

ADF Legal Counsel Jeremy Tedesco said via a media release: "School districts should not be bullied into taking the side of homosexual activists. Parents rightly believe that public schools are a place for education, not sexual indoctrination. The Anoka-Hennepin School District's policy is entirely ap-

propriate and legally sound."

The letter sent by the SPLC and NCLR urges the District to "remedy the current hostile environment and to compensate our clients for the harm caused by the District." The letter also states the intent of the two groups to file a federal lawsuit against the District.

In lieu of the lawsuit, the groups proposed the District repeal its current policy, offer training for students and staff to prevent bullying based on sexual orientation and include issues related to LGBT individuals in the curriculum.

"[The] SPLC and NCLR's letter plainly misinterprets the District's policy, is inaccurate as to the law and is heavy on hyperbole," the ADF responded, arguing that the groups appear to be "more concerned with pushing their agenda than with offering real solutions to the problems of bullying and suicide, which ... are faced equally by all students, regardless of their sexual orientation."

The SPLC and NCLR, in their letter offered to meet with the District in an effort to avoid litigation.

In late July, the "Star Tribune" reported that the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Civil Rights are investigating the District as the result of a complaint about student bullying.

Also, in late July, the SPLC and NCLR filed their suit in federal court, according to media reports.

For more information on the ADF, visit www.adfmedia.org.

Campus Crusade for Christ adopts a new name: Cru

ORLANDO, Fla. — Campus Crusade for Christ, a household name among Christian college students for 60 years, will be boasting a new moniker after the first of the year, when it will adopt the name Cru.

Officials with the campus ministry said the nonprofit, co-founded in 1951 by Bill and Vonette Bright, was in need of an updated name that avoided some of the "existing barriers and perceptions inherent in the original name."

"From the beginning, Bill was open to changing our name," said Vonette Bright, who has remained active with the ministry since her husband's 2003 death. "He never felt it was set in stone. In fact, he actually considered changing the name 20 or 25 years ago. We want to remove any obstacle to people hearing about the most important person who ever lived—Jesus Christ."

The new name and identity was unveiled July 19 to 5,000 staff members who were gathered at the ministry's biennial U.S. staff conference in Fort Collins, Colo. The news was met with enthusiasm and excitement.

"We believe wholeheartedly that God has given us this new name," said Steve Sellers, vice president for the U.S. for Campus Crusade for Christ. "Our team understands that our name is really for the benefit of others. Ultimately, it's not about our name, but how we live out our mission everyday."

The name, selected from a pool of 1,600 potential names, has a track record within Campus Crusade for Christ. Since the mid-1990s, it has been used locally on the majority of their U.S. campus ministries.

"This decision has been satu-

rated with prayer," said Steve Douglass, president of Campus Crusade for Christ. "We only want what God wants for us. And while we are excited about this name, we are even more excited about our renewed commitment to our mission. We believe this new name will position us to connect better with the next generation."

Since its founding, Campus Crusade for Christ, a worldwide, interdenominational Christian evangelism and discipleship ministry, has become one of the largest Christian organizations in the world. Campus Crusade is now served by more than 25,000 full-time and part-time team members in 191 countries around the world and is comprised of 29 different ministries.

For more information about the name change, visit ccci.org/cru.



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EDITORIAL

Always remain hopeful

The last few weeks would give anyone reason to lose hope. Regardless of where you live, tragedy, intense disagreements and increasing levels of distrust have shadowed the lives of countless people.

In the U.S., the debt crisis has revealed intense disagreements between our elected officials as various plans were debated in the midst of name-calling and political gamesmanship. Closer to home, the Minnesota government shutdown for several weeks, as the Republican-controlled legislature and Democrat governor disagreed over the best way to close the state's huge budget gap.

Several thousand miles away—in a place where many Minnesotans have close ties—Norway suffered through its worst domestic terrorism act since World War II. Dozens were killed in two attacks, many of them teenagers and young adults.

In East Africa, an area not immune to disaster, millions of people are in need of immediate food assistance. Some estimates say 30

percent of the people in the Horn of Africa are so malnourished, they need special feeding to alleviate their condition.

It's easy to read these reports and watch them unfold on television and become discouraged. Conflict, disaster and misfortune follow us daily, even though we live in a world that has done its best to minimize the impact and effects of these problems.

In addition to these regional and even global tragedies, nearly every person knows of someone—if not him or herself personally—who is struggling through cancer, the death of a loved one or the seeming hopelessness of job loss, betrayal or loneliness.

It's easy to get lost in the seeming hopelessness of a broken world, a world that at times seems to be driving out of control toward destruction. Violence, death, starvation, anger, conflict ... these are inherent conditions in our less-than-perfect world.

Even though it's difficult to see sometimes, there is much hope we

can embrace, especially for believers.

Not too many months back, I read that a local church saw hundreds of people come to Christ during special services held over a weekend. These new believers will not be spared the brokenness of our world, but their eternal hope is now secured. They also immediately become God's ambassadors to a world that desperately needs the hope they now possess. Not only the spiritual hope but also the hope they can deliver with their hands and feet.

Some time ago, I listened to a story of a woman who was mired in human trafficking. Her days were not her own. She marched to the beat of someone who controlled her steps, not possessing any kind of freedom or the ability to make her own decisions.

She is now free—both physically and spiritually. Her freedom was paved by a local organization that does the messy and oftentimes unseen work of helping women break



Editor's Note: Scott Noble

the bonds of modern-day slavery. She, too, is still a resident of this fallen world and must live with the memories, which often wake her at night, of her past. Nevertheless, she is now "owned" by the Savior of the universe, her steps ordered by His grace and mercy.

Finally, as you can read in this issue, Alan Law has spent most

of his life devoted to helping inner-city youth and adults find hope—through much-needed food, through participation in fun activities and the companionship and help only a trusted friend can provide.

He sacrifices his own desires and comforts to help others through difficult and trying times. His service has given hope to thousands of people through more than 40 years of commitment.

There are so many other stories—narratives being written every day—displaying the hope being introduced in our communities. I am privileged to hear many of them in my position and am daily encouraged by how many of them there are—even if they are rarely publicized.

Our world is full of pain and often seems hopeless. Yet as Christ urged us: we must never lose hope, for the One who created the universe and designed each of us individually is still working to impact and transform lives.

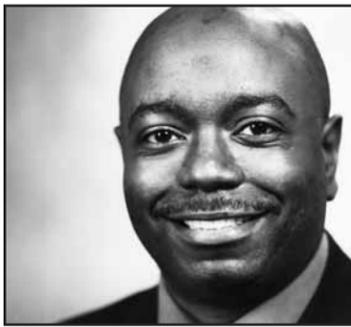
Let's join Him!

The community speaks

Sometimes I fear that the message the world is hearing from the Church is like a group of people trying to name a new business. Instead of hearing the Church speaking with one voice on issues of faith, the world is hearing many voices—sometimes contradictory—and almost always confusing.

In the name of political correctness, fear of offending others and compromise, we have either diluted the Gospel of its power, misrepresented what the Gospel really is or have not been willing to have the boldness to speak of the Gospel at all; and while we are busy attempting to please the world around us, we are losing those who are seeking truth to the influences of darkness.

Lest you misunderstand what I am saying here, let me emphasize that it is biblical to present the Gospel in a culturally relevant fashion but that does not entail compromis-



Terrance J. Rollerson

ing the biblical message in any way, shape or form.

This is a serious issue that deserves our full attention. There are three particular assertions that we should be able to make both as individuals and corporately as the Church of Jesus Christ.

The first assertion that we can make is this: We are not afraid.

If we are to be true to our calling as Christ followers, we cannot be afraid to speak of the Christ we claim to follow. There is nothing that will keep you from being an effective witness more than living in fear instead of living in faith.

Paul addresses the concern of fear. First, we are not afraid ... of failure (1 Thessalonians 2:1). Why are we not afraid of failure when we tell others about Christ? Because anytime we share the Good News of Jesus, we are successful.

Second, we are not afraid ... of opposition. The early disciples knew what it was to be opposed. Paul mentions the suffering and insults they had received in Philippi.

Our opposition sometimes comes from those who claim a Christian label but are uncomfortable with our evangelical claim that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Our reaction to the world's opposition must

mirror the apostles' reaction. Paul said they had suffered and been insulted but "with the help of our God we dared to tell you His gospel in spite of strong opposition" (1 Thessalonians 2:2).

The second assertion we need to make is this: We are driven by the Gospel. To be "driven" means to have an overarching purpose that directs our lives. As followers of Christ, we are driven in the most positive way possible: we are driven by the Good News of Jesus Christ and the sharing of that Good News with the world around us.

To say we are driven by the Gospel implies three things: Our message is true. Paul assures us, "The appeal we make does not spring from error" (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Our motives are pure. First Thessalonians 2:5 says, "You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God

is our witness."

It is very possible to have the right message but the wrong motivation. There were some in biblical times, and we have plenty of them in our culture today, that spoke of Christ for their own personal benefit and not to spread the kingdom message.

Our purpose is to please God. Those people who try to please everyone around them will soon discover that it is an impossible task. When we try to tailor our message of the Gospel in order to please everybody, we might please some, but we definitely won't have a message that pleases God.

First Thessalonians 2:4 says, "We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts."

The last assertion we need to make is this: We are accountable to

See ROLLERSON, page 9

Letters to the Editor

Don't confuse issues in marriage amendment debate

In his editorial "Looking the other way: How heterosexuals destroyed marriage" (July 2011), Zach Psick chastised us all in our debate over the redefinition of marriage. His points have their validity to be sure. He has a good argument, though it's about 40 years late to the debate. Many of our parents *did* make these arguments against the First Lady of California, Nancy Reagan, when she fought for "no-fault" divorce laws in *that* state. But now is not the time to muddy the waters in our *new* debate over the very definition of marriage.

I'm interested in seeing Minnesota's 2012 marriage amendment passed. I'd like to start yesterday getting the word out to my fellow Minnesotans about the importance of passing this thing. You see, I was a member of the "gay" community in the 1980s and early '90s and marched in more than one Pride parade in Minneapolis. I was one of those gay activists who was pushing an agenda which included "gay marriage."

Well, the grace of God some-

how broke my heart of stone. The change was slow but dramatic. Since I *left* that lifestyle at age 32, I got married 12 years ago to the most beautiful woman in the world! We now have three school-aged children, and I am a lot happier now than I *ever* was.

Please understand that *because* of this I'm glad I didn't succeed in changing the definition of wedlock *after* all ... if you know what I mean. And I certainly don't want it changed *now!*

Psick mentions "the consequence of defending marriage from homosexuality rather than defending marriage in general is that we now find ourselves in a society where marriage means very little." Consequence? Just what are the consequences for us if we defend the very definition of marriage from those who want to *change* it? The only consequences I can see are from *not* defending marriage, and they are not few.

But we must not confuse our issues. A man cheating on his wife and then divorcing her has defiled his marriage—not marriage in gen-

eral and certainly not its definition!

Psick also gives a good traditional definition of marriage as "a spiritual bonding of a man and a woman into 'one flesh' through a covenant between Christ and the Church." But he then argues that it is somehow better to allow a *change* in that definition than to have a man and woman divorce.

Those of us in the '80s who wanted homosexuality endorsed in the churches finally got our way with *some* churches. We also wanted to change the definition of marriage in Minnesota. We couldn't argue Scripture very well and certainly not tradition, so we wanted Christians to be sidetracked with issues *we* gave them to argue about: "Civil Rights," "Fairness" and "Well, you *straights* don't respect marriage *either!*" Please do not fall for these traps. Don't start wasting your time arguing *these* issues instead of the real issue facing us in the next 15 months: defending the institution of marriage from those who want to change its definition.

If you want to start a campaign on ways to strengthen marriage in a hostile pop culture, then join forces

with some of the groups advocating for strong families and even those advertising in this paper that offer counseling for married couples. You can even count *me* in. But not right now, for my schedule is *busy* in this movement to get the vote out for a marriage amendment.

Kevin Petersen
Brooklyn Center

Prophecy and end times

In regard to a previous letter to the editor (Kent Syverson, July 2011) again we hear the old anti-prophecy response quoting Mark 13:32. In this time of such turmoil and amazing events, the subject of prophecy, including speculating on when Jesus might return should be priority in churches now.

In that verse, the part that says "nor the Son" is not in all Bible versions. Regardless, to say Jesus doesn't know when Jesus is returning is ridiculous. Obviously Jesus was talking about then. When He was talking to His disciples He didn't know—but now that He is with the Father in heaven He does.

It is also possible any individual

could pick the correct date but not know it is correct until it is proved to be correct by the event happening. Talking about the rapture, it is likely to not be just a random day but one associated with some other biblical event. Perhaps a Jewish feast, Ascension day or Pentecost.

Philip Wagner
Via email

Compromising values is immoral

What happened to our Republican representatives who are compromising our moral boundaries for the sake of a deal that stands against what we are standing for?

Hey, you guys remember the three men thrown in the lion's den because they would not compromise? How about those who had high values being fed to the lions or the ones burned at the stakes because they would not compromise?

Have you considered that someday every knee shall bow or have you forgotten who is really in control of all this? Did He compromise His morals or values for a deal?

Dee Fero
Tonka Bay

EDITORIAL

Where are the young people?

As a lifelong evangelical and pastor in the mainline church for almost 20 years, I have become especially attuned to the dwindling of young people in the local church. The typical American congregation simply makes little sense to the post-Boomer generation. Those between the ages of 20 and 40 see the church today as complicit in and co-opted by the ways of the world, not the way of Jesus of Nazareth. They have little interest in perpetuating the institutionalism of the Constantinian arrangement.

Church of All Nations, the church that I have the great privilege of serving, was founded with a demographic of 25-35 year olds in 2004, mostly from the Korean American background. That we now have every generation represented in sizable numbers, and from more than 25 nations and cultures, is something that we truly believe only God could have orchestrated.

We have gleaned some insights along the way about the future of the church in a post-modern context.

Fundamentally, we need to ask some hard questions not merely about the content of our faith—after all, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever—but about *the way* we are communicating our ancient faith in the contemporary world. Unlike the Quran in which Arabic is en-



Jin Kim

shrined as holy writ (or the Latin Vulgate throughout the medieval age), the Bible requires translation in every time and in every place, and the church is the living community of believers that does the basic work of translation, that the world might believe.

One reason that most denominations are experiencing massive decline or stalling in growth is that they have lost the younger generations. We no longer seem able to communicate the gospel message in a winsome and compelling way in this globalized, multicultural and multi-epistemological age.

The basic problem is that we remain a Eurocentric, white, middle class church wedded to a way of doing faith that is deeply dependent on Enlightenment Rationalism, whether they are liberal or conservative churches. To take the Presbyterian Church as an example, it is common knowledge that the

PCUSA has been declining numerically since 1965, but are we aware that hardly any denomination grew as consistently as the Presbyterian Church from colonial days right up to the 1960s?

As a strongly rational church (Calvin was a Renaissance man and a lawyer, after all) that rode the wave of modernity and the frontier ethos, which includes within its framework American ideas of democracy, pragmatism, progressivism and individualism, no religious disposition matched this modern spirit more than Calvinist Presbyterianism. But since the 1960s, the U.S. has become a postmodern nation in which the rational is only one of many competing paradigms for interpreting God, ourselves and the world around us.

Church of All Nations is the convergence of the postmodern and the non-modern hermeneutic in order to live out the timeless faith in Jesus Christ under the timeless authority of the Bible, that we might interpret the times we live in and participate in the wild and unpredictable movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

I am not saying that any particular framework is superior to others. I am making a case against epistemological parochialism; or put another way, the insistence that we mainline Christians be locked into speaking only the language of modernity. When mainliners speak today, the world hears English, but in

the King James version so-to-speak, and they tune out.

With that background in mind, here are some of my observations as a local church pastor. Our young people don't buy the meta-narratives of:

1. Uncritical patriotism and American exceptionalism (my country, right or wrong).
2. Unexamined white supremacy, both the racist nativism of some on the Right and the paternalism toward minorities of some on the Left.
3. Unfettered consumerism at the expense of global fairness and environmental sustainability, and endless consumption as a personal coping mechanism.
4. Rugged individualism and the subtext of the American Dream, which is essentially "the accumulation of enough competence and wealth so as not to be in need of another human person for one's well being."
5. Christian denominational sectarianism, parochialism and triumphalism in the face of daily encounters with religious pluralism.

Therefore, the local church could drive genuine spiritual renewal if it responds evangelically to these emerging needs:

1. Our young people are searching for their vocation. They are educated enough for a job or

career in the present order but are desperately searching for a calling that inspires.

2. Our young people hunger for healthy relationships to meaningfully and deeply relate to another human being (half grew up in divorced or single parent homes and others in dysfunctional households).
3. Our young people are seeking Christian community that functions like a diverse yet intimate family as they are plagued with loneliness, isolation and alienation.
4. Our young people are looking for stability in a highly mobile world, and concreteness in an increasingly virtual and socially networked existence.
5. Our young people desire authentic faith. They are prone to agnosticism or even raw atheism as they see little evidence of a God that makes a difference in the religious institutions of the day, namely the local church.

I wonder if those of us who serve in pastoral and denominational leadership are ourselves the chief obstacles to genuine renewal, as our careers are built on the old order.

What other voices must we seek to include and engage in order to fearlessly follow the Holy Spirit into a changing world?

Jin S. Kim is pastor of Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights.

End-of-life-care decisions: Have you made yours clear?

Have you asked your parents what their end-of-life-care choices and values are? Or have you told your spouse, children or some other entrusted friend how you want to approach life care issues if you become debilitated or terminally ill?

This isn't the normal conversation for summer family picnics or Sunday dinner with one's family, but it's a conversation that all of us need to have; and for Christians, we have a certain confidence when we discuss questions about the end of life.

Earlier this year, the Minnesota Association of Evangelicals hosted a leadership forum to discuss these issues. Because the audience and participants were Christians, it was aptly named "Preparing to End Life Well: An Evangelical Discussion of End-of-Life-Care Issues." More than 80 pastors and lay leaders attended.

Interestingly, the impetus for this forum came from a conversation I had nearly a year earlier with the president of the Minnesota Medical Society, which represents physicians

and health care leaders. Because of advances in medical technology that can prolong our physiological life longer than we've ever been able to before, he said that doctors are increasingly encountering family members having to make moral and emotionally difficult decisions regarding treatment of a loved one who is incapacitated or terminally ill.

Often these doctors are caring for patients who are terminally ill, sometimes in great pain and often unable to communicate—and someone in the family given the burden of trying to decide what mom or dad, or their husband or wife, would want to do. Too many times, the patient hasn't made his or her wishes or values clear to family members, and too many times children and other family members disagree about what course of care to provide.

When there is disagreement and a loved one's life is hanging in the balance, emotions boil over and

conflict erupts. And that's why the president of the Medical Society was visiting with me. They felt there had to be a better way to help families be prepared when they encounter life-care decisions at the end of life—and could church leaders help lead that discussion?

There are biblical examples that help us approach this issue. In Genesis, Joseph gathered his sons together, acknowledged that he would soon die, gave instructions to care for his remains and tied up his affairs by blessing his sons.

King David, on the other hand, was confined to bed at the end of his life but had not yet named his successor, and there was confusion in the royal court.

Finally, Bathsheba, David's wife, Nathan the prophet, and Solomon, David's son broached the subject with King David, and he realized his need to give instructions and make provisions for what would happen after he died.

The point is, we will all die. But



Carl Nelson

with modern medical technology, the natural threshold between life and death many times becomes blurred. Those who survive us and have to make decisions about our medical care deserve to know our wishes and values in order to put their minds more at ease.

As Christians, we believe that death doesn't so much mark the end of this life but rather marks the beginning of eternal life. This is a great hope that can buoy our spir-

its—and our family members'—when life's waning moments come.

We cannot foretell the circumstances at the end of our life, but we owe it to those who will survive us to express our values and wishes; to discuss the kind of measures we want taken to continue life; to be sure that family members know who you have selected to make choices for you; and despite the uncertainty and painfulness of dying, to testify to our hope in Jesus Christ that extends beyond this physical life.

The Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals recently partnered with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT, Channel 2) to film this forum and video is available online by going to www.mnevangelicals.org. TPT will broadcast similar discussions about end-of-life decisions, which they have titled "Honoring Choices" in fall 2012.

Carl Nelson is president and CEO of the Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals.

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The changing face of evangelicalism

How politics and cultural engagement have shaped the movement

By Scott Noble

Part one in a three-part series

TWIN CITIES — While the term “evangelical” or the broader description, “evangelicalism,” has been used for many years, it was really only during the 1940s in the United States where the term and movement began to gain widespread use. After the modernist-fundamentalist controversy reached its zenith with the Scopes trial in the mid 1920s, many conservative Christians—stung by their defeat—began to retreat from culture, beginning a long yet effective effort to build and sustain a subculture.

This subculture included schools, radio stations, magazines, universities, newspapers and a host of other cultural institutions that mimicked the American mainstream. For the rest of the 1920s, 1930s and early 1940s, this subculture and this new way of approaching American culture satisfied the majority of conservative Christians.

Yet something began to stir in the late 1930s and early 1940s that would eventually grow into the modern-day evangelical movement. This new movement was not content with holding mainstream culture at arm's length and meeting most or all of their cultural and social needs within this newly constructed Christian subculture.

So in an attempt to break out of this pattern and engage culture on a much different level, evangelicalism—in its modern American con-

text—was born.

While descriptions are never exhaustive, this new movement was basically defined by several theological beliefs and by its new approach to culture and the non-Christian world. Evangelicalism would rally around the beliefs of a “decision” for Christ, the central aspect of Scripture in the life of a believer, the hope of an eternal home for those who put their faith in Jesus and a desire to tell others about Him.

Social issues

From a social standpoint, evangelicalism came to be known for its efforts at influencing broad social and political issues, specifically manifested in lobbying on issues such as abortion, keeping pro-family beliefs in schools, fighting evolution and a host of other issues.

While evangelicalism grew as a movement and its influence increased during much of the last century, the turn of the new millennium ushered with it a new concern about the movement's health and future.

B. R. Lindner Professor of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary in Illinois and the author of “The End of Evangelicalism?” David Fitch argues that the movement is at a crisis point.

“Evangelicalism has hit a turning point already,” he said. “It's not growing. Not only is it not growing, it's shrinking. And where it's not shrinking—let's say in Dallas, Texas—it is getting defensive and is retrenching and is trying to hold the

fort. That means we are no longer a missional people; we are no longer bringing the Gospel—the Good News, the mission of what God sent His Son here and the Holy Spirit to accomplish. In essence, we quit being the church.”

There are many opinions as to why evangelicalism is struggling at the moment. Some argue that it has become too intertwined with the culture it once tried to either avoid or convert. Others argue that it has become too exclusive and does not handle well those with differing or challenging views.

Political activities

One of the more widespread arguments is that evangelicalism became too committed and too corrupted by its political activities. While evangelicalism emerged as a defined movement in the 1940s, it wasn't until the mid- to late-1970s that evangelicals began to become more involved in the political process. The election of Jimmy Carter was the first notable impact of evangelicals on the national political scene, followed closely by the election of Ronald Reagan, the emergence of the Moral Majority, the Christian Coalition and several national candidates who either described themselves as evangelicals or who paid homage to the growing movement.

Fitch sees the emergence of evangelicals in the political world as an example of the movement's sometimes schizophrenic activities.

“The Christian nation kind of Jerry Falwell, Moral Majority development of the late 1970s was another

episode in a history of episodes with evangelicalism in how it was seeking to engage culture after the 1920s and 1930s modernist-fundamentalist controversy,” he said. “It was schizophrenic in very similar ways to ... like the first time they withdrew [after the Scopes trial].”

The overarching issue for evangelicals was how to engage culture: How do Christians interact with a culture that oftentimes is at odds with its core beliefs and values? Retreat from it, grudgingly co-exist with it, accommodate to it or try to convert it?

Fitch continued: “The second response was, ‘No, culture is not bad. Culture is good, and we must take it over for Christ and that's what our mandate is,’” he said. “In either case, we lost the reality that the church itself in Jesus Christ is a culture-creating social world that engages the world incarnationally, humbly, non-violently, vulnerably. Realizing that there are some things good in culture that can be recaptured and/or God is already working in, but there are some things that must be rejected ...”

Logical response

Chris Armstrong, associate professor of Church History at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul and managing editor of “Christian History & Biography,” takes a bit of a different approach, arguing that evangelicals' emergence into politics was a logical response for a segment of the population that was witnessing its values being attacked and disputed.

“The more immediate reason why we engaged in politics,” he argued, “is the kind of new liberty and social experimentation and secularization in the 1960s and 1970s that leads up to the Falwells, Moral Majority campaign, which was again a sense that we're losing ... that our children living in America are threatened in their very faith by the schools they go to, by the family dynamics they see around them and the attacks on the traditional family and so on ...”

With this perceived reality, evangelicals reacted out of “genuine concern for their families and especially their kids,” Armstrong be-

lieves.

Since the secular political system was where the battle was taking place that was where evangelicals needed to wage against it.

Regardless of whether or not the past 30 years of political and cultural engagement are the main—or even a significant cause—of evangelicalism's current struggles, these are definitely perceived by many to be a major reason for the movement's current malaise.

While the past cannot be changed, the present and future of evangelicalism is now being shaped in the nation's universities and seminaries.

The questions these twenty somethings are asking are not that dissimilar to the ones asked by previous generations of evangelicals, but they include a significant nuance.

“I have only been teaching in an evangelical seminary for six years,” Armstrong said. “Even in those six years, in particular my younger students are questioning an exclusive identification of the Gospel with a message of spiritual salvation and saying, ‘What about the social dimension? What about our responsibility to the poor and other social issues?’ There is a definite turn ... a willingness now to look at even [Walter] Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel writers and say, ‘Maybe there was some truth there that we missed.’”

So the question is still how evangelicals should engage culture.

“Everywhere I go, the church seems to be divided between the fifty somethings—Boomers who want to preserve the institution of the evangelical church and keep it going, so let's try mega-church attractional practices—and then there's all these twenty somethings who are going, ‘No, thank you’ but they really want to follow Jesus, they really want to engage the world, and they just need leadership,” Fitch said. “So there is this gap, there's no question that evangelicalism is at a turning point ...”

➔ ACTIONPOINT

Part two in “The Changing Face of Evangelicalism” series will look at those who no longer identify themselves as evangelicals.

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Catching God's heart for people

Conference aims to train youth for lifestyles of evangelism

By Scott Noble

TWIN CITIES — What can happen when you invest in young people's lives with the message of Christ, and how they can live lifestyles of evangelism?

That's the foundational question Matt Brown and other organizers of the upcoming Ignite: Student Evangelism Conference posed when they began planning for this annual two-day conference one year ago.

Brown, a North Central University graduate and co-founder—along with his wife, Michelle—of the evangelistic ministry Think Eternity, believes programs and methods aren't always the best ways to teach people about evangelism.

"Sometimes as church leaders we can be doing our work, and we don't always know what's going on around us and how God's working," he said. "Methods and programs aren't necessarily the best way, but it's pouring into people. That's our goal. Let's pour into actual people—students—[and] train them, encourage them, inspire them and [see] what can happen through the rest of their lives."

Conference organizers are hoping to gather 1,000 to 2,000 students—from middle school to college—and young adults Sept. 9-10 and help them catch God's heart for people without Christ. Speakers, including former NFL player DC Curry, will tag-team teach using the student version of the Billy

Graham Christian Life and Witness course. The extreme sports group JSAW will perform during the conference, as well as several Christian music artists, including The Spark.

Brown hopes attendees will emerge from the conference with a renewed sense of living a lifestyle of evangelism—and what can happen when you do.

Darrell Vesterfelt, Ignite conference director, is excited about the impact the conference may have on the Twin Cities.

"What does it look like when you gather hopefully 1,000 to 2,000 young adults and give them sound biblical training on what it means to live lifestyles of evangelism?" he asked. "I think an entire generation in a city can be shifted from an event like this."

Many are already speculating that God is doing something new in the Twin Cities with younger generations. On May 5, the National Day of Prayer, thousands gathered in person at the University of Min-

nesota's Mariucci Arena and online for the largest student-led prayer gathering on that day. Young people spent time worshiping and on their knees praying for themselves, their fellow students and for Christ to impact their generation.

"I think church-wide, across generations, there is something taking place in the Twin Cities," Brown said. "From my perspective, churches are seeing incredible response to the Gospel—incredible growth—so many different churches and there definitely is a young feel to it. There are a lot of young adults, a lot of students that are catching a heart for God's purpose for their lives. On a mass scale, across denominations, across the Twin Cities."

As students and young adults move on from their schools and universities, Brown hopes what they learn at Ignite will go with them—making sure it's not just something they learned as a young person.

"Ultimately, our goal is that stu-



Former NFL player DC Curry will be one of the speakers at the upcoming Ignite: Student Evangelism Conference.

➔ ACTIONPOINT

For more information about the Ignite: Student Evangelism Conference, including registration information and a list of speakers and performers, visit www.ignitetwincities.com.

ROLLERSON...

Continued from page 6

God. When we say we are accountable, we are declaring that we voluntarily choose to allow someone else to watch over our behavior and to make sure it aligns with the message we are trying to proclaim and live out.

When we assert that we are accountable to God, we are submitting to God's authority over our lives. First Thessalonians 2:4 says, "We speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel."

God has put His stamp of approval on us and has entrusted those who proclaim the truth of His Good News. What has God entrusted us with? He has entrusted us with the Gospel. This means we are stewards of the Gospel; we are responsible for it. As ministers of the Gospel (that includes every believer), we speak as men and women who are tested by God, approved by God, trusted by God and seeking to please God.

There is nothing more important in Christian ministry than its God-centeredness. Ultimately, we as stewards of the Gospel are not responsible to the Church or to its leaders but to God himself.

We live in dark times, and we must be about shining the light. If a house is dark, we cannot blame the house. We must ask where the light is. If meat goes bad, we must ask where the salt is. If our culture is growing dim, we should ask where the Church is.

The good news is when we can assert what we've been discussing, the Church will be heard loudly and clearly to the society around us, and when the community of Christ speaks lives will be changed.

Rev. Terrance J. Rollerson is pastor of The Compass Covenant Church in St. Paul.

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This program helps provide for the basic needs of the homeless, vulnerable youth, and their families. MRD provides emergency food, clothing, school supplies and basic necessities for both individuals and families. Referrals are also provided to agencies that provide housing, furnishings, counseling, job placement, financial aid and healthcare.

MRD 363 Days Food Program

In 1999 Mr. Law began feeding the homeless and families in need on a daily basis. In 2007 the MRD 363 Days Food Program was started with a few volunteers and a call to action for community groups, churches, schools, and teams to make and donate the sandwiches. In 2011 Mr. Law is on pace to distribute over 800,000 sandwiches. At present, Mr. Law delivers an average of 2200 sandwiches every night to homeless shelters, individuals and families living on the street.

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Please consider becoming a partner with us by making a **tax-deductible donation** to MRD to assist Mr. Law in his mission to serve the poor, vulnerable youth, and families in need. All donations are used directly to provide program activities and services. No salaries have ever been—nor will ever be—paid to anyone working for MRD.

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New Crossroads Chapel location will expand ministry at State Fair

Christian Examiner staff report

SAINT PAUL — As Minnesota's unusual and unpredictable summer draws to a close, thoughts drift from camping, fishing and trips to the cabin to back-to-school sales, preparation for harvest season and a trip to the Minnesota State Fair. The 12 days of the Fair this year will take place Aug. 25 through Labor Day, Sept. 5.

For nearly 60 years, the Crossroads Chapel has greeted weary fair-goers with physical and spiritual respite—offering needed shade on a hot day, insightful teaching and meaningful music. This year will be no different, although the Chapel's location has changed. Chapel officials have been working during the Fair's off-season to prepare its new home at 1362 Underwood, directly next to the Kidway and one block north of its old location.

As the Chapel prepares for its first year in its new location, it will be celebrating God's provision of a new building by having a Dedication Open House on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to stop by and see the new building. Cake and refreshments will be served, and the free event is open to the public; parking is free on the fairgrounds.

The Chapel's new location near the Kidway will allow it more opportunities for children to make beaded cross necklaces while having the story of Christ shared by volunteers. Bibles will be available for those who need one. A prayer ministry team will also have a booth set up at the Chapel.

During the 12 days of the Fair, the Chapel will have two days dedicated to a Ministry Fair: Tuesday, Aug. 30 and Wednesday, Aug. 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Some of the ministries



Groups like Heartsong will sing worship and praise music during the 12 days of the Fair.

represented include Bachmann & Associates, Cody James Ministries, Elim Faith Community Nursing, Glorybound, ALPHA, International Bible Givers, International Ministerial Fellowship, Love Inc., Love Lines,

Midwest Challenge, Military Care Ministry, Minnesota Family Council, MN Teen Challenge, Operation Christmas Child, Parenting With a Purpose, Prayer Ministry, Prayer Ventures and Released Time Bible

Classes.

The bookstore, which is a mainstay at the Chapel, will be larger than in the past, offering more reading material, CDs and gifts.

New this year will be two days of hymn sings, which will occur on both of the Senior Days (Aug. 29 and Sept. 1) and will be led by Jim and Vera Konold. As always, there will be performers throughout each day of the Fair who have volunteered to share their musical talents.

So as thoughts of endless summer days begin to drift away, many people hope to stem the tide of fall—at least for a little bit—by visiting Minnesota's great get-together.

ACTIONPOINT

For more information about Crossroads Chapel, visit www.crossroadsmn.org or call (651) 481-0480.

2011 CROSSROADS CHAPEL STATE FAIR SCHEDULE

See MN State Fair website for Discount Days information - www.mnstatefair.org/tickets_discounts/admission.html

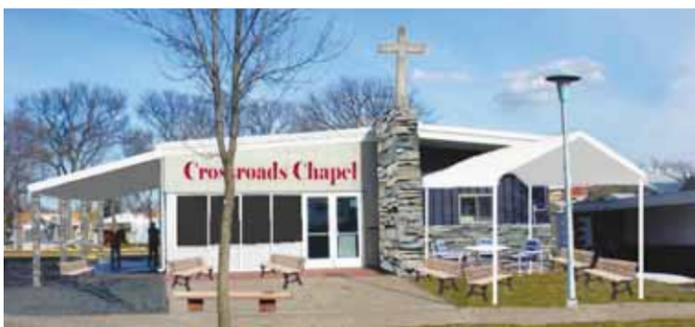
Visit us at our new location: 1362 Underwood - one block north of old location!

Thur - 8/25	Thrifty Day	Mon - 8/29	Seniors & Kids Day	Thur - 9/1	Seniors Day
9:45-11:00 am	Joe Loftus	11:30-1:00 pm	Hymn Sing-Led by Jim & Vera Konold	11:30-1:00 pm	Hymn Sing-Led by Jim & Vera Konold
5:00-6:30 pm	Nikki Wallace	1:30-3:00 pm	Hymn Sing-Led by Jim & Vera Konold	1:30-3:00 pm	Hymn Sing-Led by Jim & Vera Konold
7:00-8:30 pm	Carolann Rosenthal	7:00-8:30 pm	Called - Joel Kurpius	5:00-6:30 pm	The Courier Quartet - Gordon Gathright
9:00-10:15 pm	This Side Up - Jean Peterson			7:00-8:30 pm	This Side Up - Jean Peterson
Fri - 8/26		Tue - 8/30	Military Appreciation Day	Fri - 9/2	
11:30-12:45 pm	6:4 Devotion - Kathy Rosenow	9:00-4:00 pm	Ministry Fair Day	11:30-12:45 pm	Afrizo
1:15-2:30 pm	Julie Cavallin		Participating Ministries: Midwest Challenge, Glorybound Ministries, Cody James Ministry, Good News for Israel, Love Inc., Love Lines, Elim Faith Community, ALPHA, Bachmann & Associates, MN Teen Challenge, Int'l. Bible Givers, Parenting with a Purpose, Team Possible, Prayer Ministry, Prayer Ventures, Military Care Ministry, Int'l. Ministerial Fellowship, MN Family Council, Operation Christmas Child, and Released Time Bible Classes	5:00-6:30 pm	Beggars Band - Pastor Marty Bownik
3:00-4:30 pm	Wes Coyour & Family			7:00-8:30 pm	MN Teen Challenge/Prevention
5:00-6:30 pm	JC Rock - Tom Pechacek				
7:00-8:30 pm	Whirlwind Ministries - Connie R			Sat - 9/3	
Sat - 8/27				9:45-11:00 am	Love Power - Rick Larson
9:45-11:00 am	Lisa Weyerhaeuser			11:30-12:45 pm	Debbie Roth with Rest in Him Ministry
11:30-12:45 pm	Crossed Paths - Char H.			1:15-2:30 pm	Rotators - David Boeltl
1:15-2:30 pm	His Voice - Donna Clark			3:00-4:30 pm	Wings of Spirit - Janis Mathias
3:00-4:30 pm	Brother of James - Rob Brock			5:00-6:30 pm	Rotators - David Boeltl
5:00-6:30 pm	Frontier - Julie Jacobs			7:00-8:30 pm	Whirlwind Ministries - Lonnie Rogowski
7:00-8:30 pm	John Garden				
9:00-10:15 pm	Tom Hipps			Sun - 9/4	
Sun - 8/28				Worship services:	Speaker: Robert Permenter, Galilee Bapt.
7:30, 9:45 & 11:00	Worship Team			7:30, 9:45 & 11:00	Worship team: Galilee Baptist Church
1:15-2:30 pm	Always Found - Mary Zastrow			1:15-2:30 pm	Galilee Mime Group
3:00-4:30 pm	Ted Hajnasiewicz			3:00-4:30 pm	Heartsong & 3Pete - Doug & Judy Peterson
5:00-6:30 pm	Rising Joy - Mike Pinotti			5:00-6:30 pm	Discovery - Dennis W.
7:00-8:30 pm	Rising Joy - Mike Pinotti			7:00-9:00 pm	Chris Heep - Good News for Israel
		Wed - 8/31	Read and Ride Day	Mon - 9/5	Kids Day
		9:00-4:00 pm	Ministry Fair Day (same as 8/30)	11:30-12:45 pm	Debbie Roth with Rest in Him Ministry
		5:00-6:30 pm	Cody James		
		7:00-8:30 pm	Cody James		



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Crossroads Chapel at the MN State Fairgrounds has moved!



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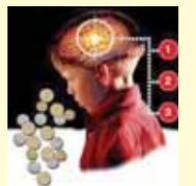
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MissionShift now at two locations

Still teaching Christians how to build cross-cultural bridges

By Scott Noble

MINNEAPOLIS — The 2010 Census revealed many demographic changes occurring across the country and in Minnesota. The Twin Cities alone now has approximately 750,000 immigrants. Decades ago, immigrant populations settled mainly in the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul; today, immigrants are moving to and living in second-ring and third-ring suburbs and even farther away from urban areas, including smaller towns like Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Worthington and Pequot Lakes, according to Roland Wells, executive director of MissionShift School of Urban Ministry.



Students at MissionShift School of Urban Ministry learn to build and lead cross-cultural ministries.

While there are many changes occurring in the state's demographics, one constant has remained: the majority of immigrants coming to Minnesota have never been exposed to the Gospel, according to Wells.

MissionShift School of Urban Ministry, which is in its 17th year of operation, aims to teach "Christians to build and lead cross-cultural ministries."

The school offers classes during two semesters each year and has recently added a second location. The original site is at St Paul's Lutheran Church on Portland Avenue in Minneapolis; the newer site is at Lutheran Church of the Master on 69th Avenue North in Brooklyn Center. Classes meet Monday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at both locations and are joined by two-way Internet video. Several local colleges offer credit for the

classes, and CEUs are available for professionals.

Since cross-cultural ministry is no longer situated exclusively in urban areas, the School of Urban Ministry recently added MissionShift to its official name, since its mission has shifted.

"Today, cross-cultural ministry in America is no longer just an urban phenomenon; in fact, the most successful cross-cultural church planting today is in the second- and third-ring suburbs," Wells said. "That's where immigrant people live after they have settled down, become somewhat acculturated and ready to make relationships."

Of the globe's more than six billion people, Wells believes some two billion of them are "in motion," meaning they are relocating within their own countries or to foreign nations. The challenge for the Church amidst this new global mobility, according to Wells, is what's being called "diaspora ministry,"

which describes people as they disperse from their homelands.

"Today's migration is the greatest migration in human history," Wells said, "and as this diaspora comes to every city and town on the globe, it presents a tremendous challenge and opportunity for the global Church."

This opportunity—to reach those moving around the world with the Gospel—is what MissionShift hopes will mobilize individuals and churches to continue to find new ways and appropriate methods of leading cross-cultural ministries—ultimately resulting in leading people to Christ.

MissionShift classes cost \$150 per semester, and school officials say scholarships are available. The fall semester begins Sept. 26.

ACTIONPOINT

For more information on MissionShift School of Urban Ministry, visit www.schoolofurbanministry.org or call (612) 874-0133.

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Local radio station brings hope to northern suburbs

By Carl Borg

ANOKA — “We as a station and the message of hope are accessible to everyone. Christian stations can be rather aloof except when contact is to their advantage. We want to serve our community with everything within

our power,” said Jon Engen, station manager of WLKX, formerly Spirit 95.9, now known as HOPE 95.9 FM.

Engen’s name and voice should be familiar to local Christian radio enthusiasts. He spent 18 years with Northwestern College Radio, including eight years at KTIS, where he was

station manager and co-host of the “Knapper and the Pastor” morning show. He then moved to BOB 106.1 FM and Spirit 95.9 FM.

Spirit 95.9, a Christian talk station operated by Milestone Radio for Lakes Broadcasting Company, Inc., in Forest Lake, broadcasts Christian preaching

and teaching shows to the northern suburbs. The new name—HOPE 95.9—reflects the addition of music to their programming.

Lakes Broadcasting Company, Inc., and Milestone Radio are owned by Dan Peters, perhaps best known with his brother, Steve, for their campaign against the anti-Christian content of rock music. Through them and Starcom LLC, Dan also co-owns or manages several other radio stations surrounding the Twin Cities area, including KLCI (BOB 106.1 FM) in Elk River and KBGY (La Mera Buena 107.5 FM) in Faribault.

In 2008, Milestone Radio acquired their “Radio Ranch” west of Anoka. This relatively new building previously housed a construction company and Engen claims “seemed to be constructed with radio in mind.”

After some remodeling, WLKX, along with KLCI, KBGY, WQPM and Radio Asia, moved in during the summer of 2009. The station’s transmitter is still outside Forest Lake, however.

Last fall, Spirit 95.9’s audience was very small, and Milestone Radio was generously donating studios and utilities to keep them on the air.

Engen began to pray about what God might do with WLKX.

“We [the management team] started a dialogue about what we could do with WLKX to make it a station that has a greater appeal to the Christian community and be more accessible to the north metro as a whole,” he said. “I was reading my Bible one day and was overwhelmed by the message of hope that is found at almost every turn ... We made the choice to change the name from Spirit to HOPE and let that be the one word mission statement of the station.”

HOPE 95.9 now broadcasts music

from contemporary Christian performers of 15 to 20 years ago, such as Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, 4Him, Lenny LeBlanc, the Maranatha Singers and more, as well as some teaching shows, such as “Haven Today,” “In Touch” and “Love Worth Finding.”

Engen added: “I would love to introduce local artists as well. The Twin Cities is filled with amazing talent but to get air play can be next to impossible.”

A typical HOPE 95.9 weekday begins with music from midnight until 5:00 a.m., when the station airs James McDonald and Greg Laurie. Engen hosts the 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. drive time show, with “more music than talk.”

Teaching begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by an hour for interviews and special events in the north metro. The 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. slot is filled by national preachers, followed by more music and “The Joy Ride” afternoon drive show, hosted by Tom Payne. More national and local teaching shows begin at 7:00 p.m.

The WLKX call letters have been associated with the frequency of 95.9 megahertz for several decades. In the past, the station has programmed adult contemporary and country music formats. Their signal reaches more than one million people as far north as Hinckley, west to Big Lake, east to Glenwood City, Wisc., and south into the downtown areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Sharing Hope in Crisis seminar coming

By Scott Noble

BLOOMINGTON — Locally based Disaster Response Communications, Inc. (DRC) and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association’s (BGEA) Rapid Response Team (RRT) have partnered together to hold the Sharing Hope in Crisis seminar Sept. 23 and 24. The one-day training event will be held at Bethany Church on the campus of Bethany College of Missions in Bloomington.

In addition, each evening E-412 Ministries, which is based on Ephesians 4:12, will teach families how to be prepared for emergencies.

Michael Beresford, managing director for RRT and Specialized Ministries for BGEA believes any Christ-follower would benefit from the training.

“Many think that they have to be a part of a disaster response group to come, but my experience is that this training is for anyone who wants to strengthen their people skills, especially to those who are going through a tough time,” he said. “It’s great training for small group leaders, ministry leaders, high school and college leaders; but it’s great for everyone who wants to be an effective Christ-follower.”

From earthquakes to tsunamis

to tornadoes and various other natural disasters, those around the globe have witnessed a seemingly increased number of tragedies recently. The devastation observed mostly in the media centers around structural damage—buildings being destroyed, sanitation services being interrupted and loss of access to basic necessities.

Beresford believes, however, the help they—and others—can provide oftentimes goes well beyond these practical provisions.

“It’s amazing how much of the help that people get is about support[ing] them with sanitation, housing, the systems that support life; but rarely does the help [ask] the simple question, ‘How are you holding up?’,” he said “We, the Rapid Response Team, as well as Christ-followers in general, should also be about the person themselves. We do emotional and spiritual care with the hope that Jesus is seen and experienced. He is the true source of hope in our tragic situations.”

Crises can take many shapes and forms. Regional natural disasters receive the most media attention, but people struggle each day with a variety of personal tragedies. The seminar helps train people for

these specific situations as well.

“All of us have people in our lives who are in a significant amount of pain from life circumstance or choices, but we don’t always know what to do for them and even with them,” Beresford said. “The seminar teaches what a person typically goes through—emotionally, spiritually, behaviorally and physically—and how to come along[side] them in an appropriate way depending on where they are at. God created all of our systems and they work together in tandem, but we have to have a basic understanding of those in order to minister effectively and appropriately. We will explore what to say and not to say, as well as spend some time dealing with the appropriate delivery of the Gospel when people are dealing with loss.”

Organizers hope participants will travel from around the five-state area to receive the training.

➔ ACTIONPOINT

For more information on the Sharing Hope in Crisis seminar, visit www.drcomm.org. For more information about the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team, visit www.billygraham.org/rrt. For more information on E-412 Ministries, visit www.e412ministries.org.

➔ ACTIONPOINT

Find the station on Facebook at HOPE 95.9 FM. The station’s website, www.hope959.com, is currently under construction. Locally-based artists who want to submit Gospel music or Christian contemporary music can email Engen at hope959fm@gmail.com.

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Sundays beginning Sept. 11th

Berean Baptist Church of Burnsville — Conf. Rm A

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. Beginning Hebrew
- 9:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Beginning Greek
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Advanced Hebrew
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Beginning Greek
- 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Advanced Greek

Berean Baptist Church of Burnsville — Conf. Rm 108

- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Beginning III-Intermediate Greek: Readings from John
- 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Beginning Greek I (Active learning methods: audio, songs, storytelling, & more) ~ Louis@LetsReadGreek.com

Brookdale Covenant of North Minneapolis — Rm TBA

- 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Intermediate Hebrew (612-396-9986)
- 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Beginning Greek

David Reynold's Home

- 7:00 p.m. Beginning Greek

Mondays beginning Sept. 12th

Brookdale Covenant of North Minneapolis — Rm TBA

- 7:00 p.m. Intermediate Greek

Wednesdays beginning Sept. 14th

Wooddale Church of Eden Prairie — Rm TBA

- 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Beginning Greek
- 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Intermediate Greek

**The above schedule may be expanded or adjusted.*



Instructor

Rev. Charles J. Gustafson, B.A., B.D., M.A.
 Chuck has taught New Testament Greek for the past 26 years at Berean Church in Burnsville, and more recently at other Twin City churches. He also taught N.T. Greek at Northwestern College. His M.A. is in Ancient History from the University of Minnesota and his B.D. from Bethel Seminary. His B.A. is in History from the University of Washington.

Associate/Assistant Instructors



Michael Smith St. James
 9 years Greek; B.S. Adult Education from University of Dayton, Ohio



Greg Franz
 6 years Greek, Computer Tech



Louis Sorenson
 B.A. Pillsbury College, major in Bible, minor in Education; B.A. U of M, majors in Greek, Linguistics, and Near Eastern Studies



Chawna Schroeder
 Author; 9 years Greek, 6 years Hebrew



David Reynolds
 B.A. New Testament Studies, minor in N.T. Greek, Post B.A. classes at Macalaster College, St. Paul



Dawn Sweiven
 15 years Greek; B.A. Linguistics at U of M; one year in Greece ~ YWAM



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Theology
 with Dr. William Lane Craig
 Thursday, December 15
 7:00 - 8:30 pm



BACHMANN...

Continued from page 6

has a titanium spine," Marcus said. "She has never sought to play the usual political games, to be part of 'business as usual' in either St. Paul or Washington, D.C. True leaders do not weigh decisions based on whether they will be criticized or face hardship. Michele is the real deal. For the entirety of our marriage, we have held firm to the belief that the truth shall prevail. We are called to be courageous, strong fighters who stay the course. And so that's what we will do."

For Marcus, much of the media attention has come as a result of his work at Bachmann & Associates Christian Counseling, an agency licensed by the Minnesota Board of Psychology. The clinic, which has offices in Burnsville and Lake Elmo, works with more than two dozen licensed counselors and handles clients with personal, marriage or other family issues.

Critics have questioned the clinic's approach when it comes to treating or "curing" people with same-sex attractions and have also



Bachmann & Associates Christian Counseling, an agency run by Marcus Bachmann, will celebrate its eighth anniversary this year.

criticized the clinic for receiving federal tax dollars, a position some say is at odds with Michele's stance.

A lifelong call

After making a decision for Christ when he was 16, Marcus believes God led him into the field of counseling.

"Inspired by my faith and after earning both a Master's degree and a PhD, I came to see that I could make a positive difference in people's lives," he said. "I firmly believe that my faith is an asset in therapy, enabling me to offer my clients direction, correction and hope."

The clinic will celebrate its eighth anniversary this year, and Marcus believes it has had a positive impact on thousands of lives.

Even with the hectic schedule of a presidential campaign, Marcus has been able to continue work with the clinic and also spend time together as a family.

"I am energized by serving people, and I try to be a good steward of the time God has given me," he said. "So I counsel, administrate and market our practice during the week and typically join Michele on the campaign trail on the weekends. Family is still central to us, of course, and so we take extra measures to make sure that we stay together as family, even as our children are all either working or off to start college."

That emphasis on and commitment to family is a core belief for both Marcus and Michele. They have

raised five biological children and also took in nearly two dozen foster children. Many years ago, the Bachmanns observed a couple from their church serving as foster parents, and their example helped to stir Marcus and Michele to open their hearts and home to foster children.

"Both Michele and I have broken hearts for at-risk kids," Marcus said. "As a family, we opened our hearts and our home to more children. As the psalms tell us, God can use families to help those who need help and support. The foster care experience has been a wonderful blessing for us; we are grateful to God for this opportunity to share our love and our values with so many children."

The spouse of a presidential candidate often has an amorphous role in the campaign, not holding an official capacity but having more vested interest than anyone else besides the candidate herself. While Michele spends a bulk of her time traveling and campaigning, Marcus sees his role as one of support for Michele.

"Thirty-three years ago, I made my vows before God, pledging to love and cherish Michele," he said.

"She is an easy person to love. I have the privilege to be very involved with our children and to help create an environment at home that supports the important work Michele is doing, both in Congress and out on the campaign trail."

Through the upheaval of a political career and presidential campaign, the couple has been able to maintain prayer and devotional time. They lean on several biblical passages for support, including 2 Corinthians 1:5, which says, "For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ" and Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves."

"We pray throughout the day, often at the beginning and end of the day," Marcus said. "Prayer for our entire family is very comfortable, honest and sincere. Our praying occurs on the phone, through texting and of course when we can share each other's company. The Bachmanns believe that prayer is powerful; it gives us all wisdom, insight and strength."

President asked to maintain hiring rights for religious organizations

WASHINGTON D.C. (WNS) — In June, the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination (CARD) asked President Obama to prohibit federally funded religious organizations from hiring employees based on religious belief.

Signers of CARD's letter included the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Humanist Association, Catholics for Choice and the American Association of University Women. The letter asked President Obama to rescind an executive order signed by George W. Bush in 2002 that permits religious organizations in contract with the government to hire employees that share religious beliefs.

Now, though, conservative groups are fighting back. Conservative faith-based organizations sent President Obama a response letter on July 12, asking him to ignore CARD's demands. Signers of this letter include World Vision, Compassion International, Catholic Charities, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs and the Hispanic Evangelical Association.

The response letter said that denying religious groups the ability to "compete for federal contracts because they maintain their religious identity in their staffing decisions" would result in discrimination against those religious organizations themselves.

The response continued, "Religious hiring by religious organizations in the context of government funding simply allows religious organizations to do what secular organizations do while receiving government funding: employ persons who agree with the organizations' mission."

The letter then went on to point out that groups like the Sierra Club and Planned Parenthood are allowed to hire employees based on political or social beliefs, a practice that is even more important for religious organizations.

"Religious hiring by religious organizations is not a deviation from the great civil rights legacy of the United States but rather a distinctive and vital feature of it—vital because it protects the religious freedom of religious organizations," the letter went on.

The letter concluded by commending the president for maintaining policies that allow faith-based organizations to assist the federal government in the "all hands' battle against poverty, illness, addiction and other challenges."

Understanding the Times 2011 Conference

Presented by Jan Markell and Olive Tree Ministries.

October 7 - 8, Grace Church, Eden Prairie

Friday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. • Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Joel Rosenberg is the best-selling author of numerous books and the producer of various documentary films. He is the founder of *The Joshua Fund*, a non-profit educational organization that mobilizes Christians to "bless Israel and her neighbors in the Name of Jesus." He has been interviewed on hundreds of radio and television programs focusing on the epicenter — the Middle East. Joel has also spoken at the White House, the Pentagon, and to members of Congress.

www.joelrosenberg.com



Dr. Mark Hitchcock is a pastor, Bible prophecy expert, author of two-dozen books, and conference speaker. He pastors Faith Bible Church in Edmond, OK. He has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television programs. He and Jan Markell appeared together recently on *Jewish Voice Broadcasts'* international TV program. www.mlhitchcock.com



Brannon Howse is founder of *American Family Policy Institute*, *Worldview Weekend*, and *Worldview Weekend* television and radio. He has been a guest on more than 1,000 radio and television programs and has guest hosted *The Michael Reagan Show*. He is also the most frequent guest host for Jan's *Understanding the Times* radio. He has authored several books including the very popular *Grave Influence*. www.worldviewweekend.com

Eric Barger has focused on Christian apologetics. His *Take a Stand! Ministries* confronts both the culture and the church. His focus has been cults, world religions, the occult, spiritual warfare, the Emergent Church, and more. He has authored several books and produced many DVDs. He has been a frequent guest on Jan's *Understanding the Times* radio program and even served as guest host. www.ericbarger.com

Bill Koenig is a White House correspondent with *Koenig's International News*. His weekly e-newsletter, *Koenig's Eye-View from the White House*, is popular and informative.

As a correspondent, he has been present to cover some of the most significant news events in our nation's history. Koenig has authored two books including *Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel*. www.watch.org



Jan Markell is founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries, established in 1982. Her radio program, *Understanding the Times*, is syndicated nationally and heard internationally electronically. She has authored eight books and produced a dozen DVDs, some featured on *Sky Angel*. www.olivetreeviews.org

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Watch for further newsletters, e-alerts, and postings on our Web site for updates.

Contact: 763-559-4444 or www.olivetreeviews.org



Ryan Daniel: Moving to God's rhythm

By Beverly Snyder

TWIN CITIES — From tropical breezes at the Caribbean islands' southern tip to the northern air of the Twin Cities, Ryan Daniel travels with a heart beating for God.

"As a young boy," he wrote, "I would lift my eyes regularly to the blue Caribbean sky with hopes of one day being able to fly. What else can you do with a sky like that?"

Born into a Christian family on the island of Trinidad as the oldest of four boys, Daniel gained sensitivity to God at an early age. He met Jesus at the age of 13 and began a journey filled with praise and music.

Trinidad's rich musical culture enveloped him, even on the streets and public transportation. The rhythm of hip-hop and reggae danced through his soul. But often popular street music, known in the American urban market as Caribbean dancehall, contained harsh, unhealthy elements.

By age 18, Daniel began putting Christian lyrics to popular songs and soon writing his own music.

"One opportunity led to another," he said.

Daniel's music gained influence in the Christian dancehall scene with his unique style blending hip-hop, reggae and R&B. Christian dancehall music can be defined as party songs that edify your soul while dancing to the energetic beat.

His band had approached national status by the time Daniel left Trinidad at age 23 to come to the United States on a soccer scholarship. For a time, his involvement with music diminished. Although sensing the loss, Daniel threw himself into college life and studies, initially playing soccer in Iowa. He transferred to Northwestern College in St. Paul, where he graduated in broadcast journalism with minors in both graphic design and biblical theology.

While at Northwestern, he put together a praise and worship band and called it Spirit of David, as a biblical model of God's moving. One of his talented vocalists later became his wife Sarah.

Daniel came out with his first CD titled "Life in General" when finished with school. He decided to go back to his musical roots—reggae/hip-hop fusion—which helped him stand out from other worship leaders and better reach youth with his CD "Prophets and



Ryan Daniel blends hip-hop, reggae and R&B to produce a unique gospel sound.

the Planet."

Daniel's band earned respect within the music community.

"Their sound is polished, the production thoroughly modern and bold, and the cross-pollination of styles so fun it almost makes this as irresistible as dc-Talk and Souljahz when they both first hit the scene," wrote Russ Breimeier in a 2004 "Christianity Today" article.

Daniel's growing platform over the years gained him other opportunities and accolades, such as music video awards and nominations for prestigious Marlin and Grammy awards. At music festivals, he has shared the main stage with artists like Third Day, Rebecca St. James, Newsboys, Go Fish and others.

Daniel chooses appropriate rhythms and songs according to his audience to create the smoothest pathway for the Gospel. His reggae fusion captures youthful energy as a declarative expression of God's exuberance for life. He uses it to focus attention and share God's truth.

Because styles of music work differently, Daniel follows a Gospel presentation with more thought-provoking contemporary Christian music. His "style of choice," he said, "depends on what helps worship best."

The goal of his broad view of worship is to have fellowship with God while doing what God wants, where God has placed him.

Approximately 11 years ago, Daniel began singing with Dan Adler's Heart of the City Worship Band, whose mission is to "unite Christians and break patterns of racial and denomina-

tional division by the power of God through music, education and gatherings of worship and prayer."

Adler appreciates Daniel's sense of humor, his versatile style and his serious walk with God.

"He's also serious about the purposes of why he makes music and how he wants to use it for God's glory," Adler said. "Ryan is a great performer and minister with this unique blend of music, and he is a key part of the multi-ethnic mosaic of people and music that makes up the Heart of the City Worship Band."

Working for more than two decades as worship leader in a variety of churches, Daniel understands the needs and challenges of every aspect of corporate worship. He realizes the difficulty for worship artists to maintain energy and spiritual vitality on their own. So he created Spirit of David Worship as support and encouragement for a healthier church environment for artistic leaders, worshipers and church staff.

In June, Spirit of David Worship held a conference specifically for women called "Different Shoes." Daniel designed the "Different Shoes" conference to develop, train and celebrate women in all areas of worship ministry, including sound, lighting, vocals and dance.

"Women bring a demonstration of God," Daniel said. He wants women to understand that "we value you. We want to train you specifically."

To his lengthy repertoire of musician, conference organizer, worship leader and trainer, Daniel recently added radio show host. His live radio program called "Float" runs every other Tuesday on 107.5 KBGY. He created this listener-supported show as an online party experience for youth and teens. He foresees future expansion so people will be able to log in to the live broadcast.

Daniel grinned, "This is talk radio meets soul train."

Whether by "soul train," airwaves or reggae beat, Daniel infuses worship with lively, God-honoring rhythm.

➔ ACTIONPOINT

For more information about Ryan Daniel, visit www.ryandanielonline.com.

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NOMINATION...

Continued from page 1

After determining the location of the potential project to help institute what she had learned and desired—what she calls the Global Athlete Village—Smith began to attend public forum meetings regarding how to restore some of the historic buildings on the site.

Smith and her husband, Ross, are also involved with The Northern Lights Junior A Hockey Team, and both organizations hope to mobilize athletes to interact with communities in constructive ways and also to prevent Type 2 Diabetes.

"It was at [one of those] meeting[s]," she said, "where I heard my very first indigenous elder stand up and ask about the 1805 treaty. I didn't even know what to think."

According to the Minnesota Historical Society website, the 1805 treaty, negotiated by Zebulon Pike, resulted in the Dakota ceding 100,000 acres of land near the present-day site of Fort Snelling. Although seven American Indian leaders were present at the negotiations, only two signed the treaty.

"The long series of forced and broken treaties culminated in the US-Dakota Indian War, which led to forced removal and genocidal policies in Minnesota in 1862," Smith said. "Much like speaking to descendants of the Jewish Holocaust, many in the indigenous community today speak of generational trauma and deep wounds even 150 years later."

Smith might not have known what to think when she first heard talk about the 1805 treaty, but she left the meeting determined to discover more about Fort Snelling and any unresolved American Indian issues related to the lands around the Fort.

While doing research on the issue and attending meetings, Smith kept hearing from Dakota elders on how the land in that area has special meaning to them and any development on the site should include their voice.

Spending time

As opportunities arose, Smith began to volunteer as medical staff for pow-wows and various other events, spending time in the American Indian community and offering what she calls "bulk, unhurried time."

While she quickly points out that she is just an everyday person trying to integrate her faith in an important issue and not a historian, Smith believes it's important just to spend time with people, and she counts it a blessing to hear the stories and concerns of indigenous leaders.

"My faith is what drives everything," she said. "It's not about a project, it's not about accomplishing something; it's about a value. Because we're so busy in society, we often overlook each other and

fail to acknowledge the dignity that God has placed in each other. That value is what has ordered my steps."

By "affording the dignity to each other," Smith has been able to walk alongside many American Indians and has begun to learn their history and how they view use of their homeland that holds special value to them.

"I still benefit from the land that was taken from the Dakota," she said. "It's not about what my ancestors did or didn't do. At first blush, I think it's easy to mentally check the box and categorically deny any connection or responsibility to their present situation because my ancestors were not from Minnesota and were not directly involved in these dark days of the United States' history. This is not just an American Indian issue; rather, it's about how we see humanity as a whole. We need to ask how would I want my family to be treated."

Nomination for Nobel Peace Prize

Part of Smith's work mediating American Indian sacred site issues involves using the Four-Way Test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages and was instituted by Rotary International. The test applies the questions: Is it the truth; is it fair to all concerned; will it build goodwill and better friendships; and will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the 19th Keeper of the Sacred Buffalo Calf Pipe and leader of the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota (Sioux) Nation publicly announced Smith's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in March and recently introduced her as a nominee during World Peace and Prayer Day held in Minnesota.

Smith led the mediation process that drafted the Bdote (pronounced Bdoh-tay) Peace Accord that was signed by several international leaders. The signers committed to four years of dialogue using the Four-Way Test applied to sacred site issues, beginning with Bdote where the Mississippi and Minnesota River meet.

"Instead of focusing on the things that divide, the signers will focus on Type 2 Diabetes prevention, and in this process we hope to build stronger relationships across cultural lines, racial lines, spiritual lines," Smith said.

In the end, Smith said when people interact with an important topic, eventually they will reach a tipping point, where they will ask, "What can I do to help?"

That's the place where she was at when she discovered the specific and important concerns of American Indians in her own back yard.

➔ ACTIONPOINT

The Nobel Committee will announce this year's Nobel winner in October; the official ceremony recognizing the winner will take place December 10 in Oslo, Norway. For more information on the Nobel Peace Prize, visit www.nobelprize.org. To check out Smith's blog, visit www.hopefulpeacemaker.blogspot.com.

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Send us your Christian activity/event for next month, and we'll list it in THE CALENDAR at no charge. The deadline is the 18th of the prior month. E-mail to calendar@christianexaminer.com or fax to 1-888-305-4947. Or you can mail it to the Minnesota Christian Chronicle, P.O. Box 131030, St. Paul, MN 55113. We regret we cannot list Sunday morning services.

THRU AUG 12

Urban Summer Academy. 8am-5pm, Park Avenue United Methodist Church, 3400 Park Ave., Minneapolis. Hosted by Park Avenue Youth & Family Services • payfs.org

THRU AUG 18

Gospel Art Exhibit. Mon-Wed 11am-2pm & Sun 3-5pm, The Oakridge Gallery, Oakridge Community Church, 610 County Rd. 5, Stillwater • (651) 439-4882

THRU SEP 1 • THURSDAYS

Contemporary Outdoor Worship. Thursdays 6:30pm, Calvary Lutheran Church, 7520 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley • (763) 545-5659

AUG 3-6 • WED-SAT

Holy Spirit Conference, with Shawn Bolz, Larry Christenson, Randy Clark & more. North Heights Lutheran Church, 1700 Highway 96 West, Arden Hills • lutheranrenewal.org, (651) 490-1517 x13

AUG 5-6 • FRI-SAT

Dreams & Visions Prophetic Conference, with Bishop Mark David Shaw, Dr. Teresa Stamman & more. Adonai Worship Center, Cannon Falls • 5fold.org/seminar.htm, 1-888-808-5455

Higher Ground Musical Festival, with MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Kutless, Matthew West & more. 3242 230th St., Winsted, \$35-150 • hgmusicfest.com, (612) 253-5151

AUG 6 • SATURDAY

Refined Women, with Dr. Roberta Morrison. 9am-12pm, Sheraton West Hotel, 12201 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka • refinedwomen.org

Open House, New Crossroads Chapel at the State Fair, 10am-2pm • crossroadsmn.org

South of the River Annual Block Party. 2-7pm, Celebration Church, 16655 Kenyon Ave., Lakeville, free • (952) 898-7200

Crossroads Chapel Grand Opening Gala, "A Night at the Fair." 6-9:30pm, New Crossroads Chapel, MN State Fair, \$50/each • (651) 325-1188

AUG 6-14

Minnesota Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God In Christ celebrates 88 years of ministry. 6pm, North Central University, 1401 Elliot Ave S, Minneapolis • cogicmn.org

AUG 8 • MONDAY

Celebrate Recovery. Mondays 6:30pm, Discover Church Chapel. 1400 81st Ave. N, Brooklyn Park • (763) 503-3491

AUG 10 • WEDNESDAY

Fellowship of Christian Business & Professional Women luncheon. 11:30am, The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis, \$25 • (952) 252-8096

AUG 11 • THURSDAY

Rivendell Sanctuary Lectures, with Dr. Jeff Zweerink, "A Discussion of Physics and Worldview." 7-8:30pm, Bethany

AUG 11 • THURSDAY (cont.)

Church, 6900 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington • rivendellsanctuary.com, (952) 996-1451

AUG 12-13 • FRI-SAT

American Christian Writer's Conference. Country Inn, 6003 Hudson Rd., Woodbury • acwriters.com, 1-800-21-WRITE

The Power of Praise and Worship Event. 5-9pm, Lutheran Church of the Master, Brooklyn Center • lcmonline.net, (763) 561-5852

AUG 13-14 • SAT-SUN

Marriage Encounter. Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, Farmington • marriages.org, (651) 454-3238

Corn Days Festival. Sat 1-11pm & Sun 4:30-11pm, The Church of St. George, corner of Brown Rd. & Watertown Rd., Long Lake • corndays.com, (952) 473-1247

AUG 14 • SUNDAY

Gospel, Bluegrass, and BBQ. 12:30pm, Calvary Lutheran Church, 7520 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley, \$6/adult (max \$18/family) • calvary.org/bluegrassbbq, (763) 545-5659

Christian Songwriters Meeting. 2pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 105 W University Ave., St. Paul, free

AUG 16 • TUESDAY

Ministering to Veterans, Soldiers, & Families. 8am, Camp Riley, Little Falls, \$8.99/lunch • (952) 818-0227

AUG 18 • THURSDAY

MACFM Monthly Meeting, 'Social Outing.' TBD • macfm.org

AUG 19 • FRIDAY

The Single Parent Christian Fellowship, monthly potluck. 6:30pm, West Medicine Lake Park, Plymouth • (612) 866-8970

AUG 19-20 • FRI-SAT

Day Star Reunion. Hilton Garden Inn, 1050 Gramsie Rd., Shoreview, \$30 • daystar.kids@gmail.com

"A Family with Problems that Heals," a play. 7pm, Capri Theatre, 2027 W Broadway, Minneapolis, \$20 • (612) 239-5439, (612) 221-7930

AUG 20 • SATURDAY

Spirit Speak: An Autism Symposium. 9am-5pm, Buffalo United Methodist Church, 609 8th St., NW, Buffalo, free • debcomidwest.com/conferences, (763) 442-2438

Prairie Gospel Music Festival, with Blue Grass, Southern Gospel & family activities. 9am-9pm, Prairie River Camp, Bricelyn • prairierivercamp.org, (507) 327-7047

Praise and Worship Festival, benefit for the David Plaisted family, 2-6pm. Music, food, auction. New Life Church, 950 Trumble St., Chaska • kavenson@comcast.net

Summer Festival. 12-5pm, North Haven Church, 2240 15th Ave. E, N St. Paul • northhavenchurch.org, (651) 777-1384

AUG 25 • THURSDAY

Rivendell Sanctuary Lectures, with Darrow Miller, "A Biblical Worldview Discussion." 7-8:30pm, Bethany Church, 6900 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington • rivendellsanctuary.com, (952) 996-1451

AUG 25-27 • THU-SAT

Crossing2Freedom2, with Jan Hicks. Thu-Fri 6:30pm & Sat 10am-5pm, Christ Church, 29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls. Hosted by Wings of Eagles Ministries • (952) 201-2687

AUG 26 • FRIDAY

Benefit Golf Tournament for Esperanza Viva Youth Homes. 11:30am, Victory Links, 2012 105th Ave., Blaine, \$100. Presented by Living Hope International • (651) 429-0380

AUG 30-31 • TUE-WED

Crossroads Chapel Ministry Fair, at the state fair. 9am-4pm, 1362 Underwood, St. Paul • crossroadsmn.org, (651) 481-0480

SEP 6- DEC 13 • THURSDAYS

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement., 15-week course. 6:30-9:30pm, Vision of Glory Lutheran Church, 13200 Highway 55, Plymouth, \$250/certificate, \$500/credit • (763) 670-7973

SEP 9 • FRIDAY

Experience Refined Conference for men & women. 7pm, Living in His Presence Church, 3510 Williston Rd., Minnetonka • refinedwomen.org

SEP 9-10 • FRI-SAT

Ignite, Student Evangelism Conference, with Eric Samuel Timm, DC Curry, Matt Brown & more. Emmanuel Christian Center, 7777 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis • ignitetwincities.com

SEP 10 • SATURDAY

Banners in the Beauty of Holiness, seminar with Elsa Hammond. 9am-1pm, Bloomington Theater & Arts Center, Bloomington, \$20 • w.i.n.d.ministries@gmail.com

Trinityfest 2011, annual outdoor festival. 12-6pm, First Trinity Church, 981 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, free • (651) 276-2928

SEP 11 • SUNDAY

Christian Songwriters Meeting. 2pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 105 W University Ave., St. Paul, free

SEP 15 • THURSDAY

Seniors Unleashed, 55+, "Fall Fling." 11am, Edinbrook Church, 4300 Edinbrook Parkway N, Brooklyn Park • graceunleashed.org (763) 424-7744

MACFM Monthly Meeting, 'Church Building For ministry Seminar.' Westwood Community Church, 3121 Westwood Dr., Excelsior • macfm.org

SEP 16 • FRIDAY

2nd Annual Outpost Educates, Lecture Series, "God of Sex," with Dr. Peter Jones. 7:30-9pm, Blue Room, Northwestern College, 3003 Snelling Ave. N, Roseville • outpostministries.org

SEP 17 • SATURDAY

Midwest Hebrew Ministry's 33rd Annual Prophecy Conference, with Dr. Robert Lindsted & Dr. David L. Dunn. 8:30am-4:30pm, North heights Lutheran Church, 1700 Highway 96, Arden Hills, free • (763) 427-7162

Girls of Grace Tour, with Point of Grace, Jason Castro, Meredith Andrews, Satellites & Sirens and more. 9am-4pm, Grace Church Eden Prairie, 9301 Eden Prairie Rd., Eden Prairie • girlsofgrace.com

2nd Annual Polk Street Car Rally, & concert with Brian Bates. 12-4pm, Elim Baptist Church Parking Lot, 503 Polk St., Anoka • elimanoka.org, (763) 421-8124

SEP 20 • TUESDAY

TCCSA, Dob Bierle of FaithSearch. Northwestern College, 3003 N Snelling, Roseville • tccsa.tc

SEP 22 • THURSDAY

Gospel Art Exhibit Reception. 6-8pm, The Oakridge Gallery, Oakridge Community Church, 610 County Rd. 5, Stillwater • (651) 439-4882

SEP 22 • THURSDAY (cont.)

Rivendell Sanctuary Lectures, with Dr. Michael Behe, "Biology." 7-8:30pm, Bethany Church, 6900 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington • rivendellsanctuary.com, (952) 996-1451

SEP 22-NOV 10

Gospel Art Exhibit. Mon-Wed 11am-2pm & Sun 3-5pm, The Oakridge Gallery, Oakridge Community Church, 610 County Rd. 5, Stillwater • (651) 439-4882

SEP 23-24 • FRI-SAT

DRC's Disaster Preparedness & Response Conference, "Sharing Hope in Crises" seminar, 8am, Bethany Church, 6820 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington, \$50 • (952) 224-2045

SEP 30-OCT 1 • FRI-SAT

Intentional Discipleship Training Seminar. Fri 5:45-9pm & Sat 8am-12:30pm, Wayzata Evangelical Free Church, 705 County Rd. 101 N, Plymouth, \$45. Hosted by A Christian Ministry Lamplighters Int'l • regonline.com/idts, 1-800-507-9516

OCT 7-8 • FRI-SAT

The Understanding the Times 2011 Conference, with Joel Rosenberg, Dr. Mark Hitchcock & more. Grace Church,

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OCT 9 • SUNDAY

The Hoppers, with SongMasters. 6pm, Trinity Evangelical Free Church, 10658 210th St. W, Lakeville, \$16-25 • imccconcerts.com, (423) 239-6262

OCT 13-15 • THU-SAT

Hebraic Roots Conference "Reconnecting the Branches to the Roots," with Marty Goetz, Don Finto, Keith Johnson & more. St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington. Hosted by Good News for Israel • gnfi.org/hrc

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Book traces history of Minneapolis' oldest Lutheran church

MINNEAPOLIS — Katherine Doepke recently wrote "Faithful to the Mission," a book that traces the history of Trinity First Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). The church was established in 1856, making it the oldest Lutheran congregation in Minneapolis and the first LCMS congregation in the state.

Doepke had to consolidate old German records and photos with more recent data that was stored in the church's concrete archive bunker, in order to write the book.

Since its founding, Trinity has spun off four daughter congregations and has also been the home of Dr. Oswald Hoffman (Lutheran Hour) and Dr. William Poehler (president of Concordia College).

For more information about the book, including purchasing a hard copy or PDF version, call (612) 871-2353.

Denomination installs new superintendent

MINNEAPOLIS — The Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church recently announced that the Rev. Mark R. Stromberg was installed as superintendent.

He is a graduate of Minnehaha Academy and Bethel College (now University). He has served on staff of the Northwest Conference for the past decade, assuming the positions of associate superintendent and director of Administration and Church Development.

"I am so pleased to be able to continue to serve the Lord through my work with Northwest Conference churches and other fine ministries," Stromberg said via a media release. "To stand before delegates representing the broader Covenant and affirm my commitment to the work within the Northwest Conference was a humbling and holy experience for me."

Stromberg assumed the new position July 1.

"I am grateful for the rich heritage I have received from being a child of the Northwest Conference. However, my passion and commitment has much more to do with the future than the past. Thus, I pray that I am used to move our collective ministry forward in the years ahead," he said.

Stromberg and his wife, Terri, have two children and currently attend First Covenant Church in Minneapolis.

For more information about the Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, visit www.nwc-cov.org.

Autism Symposium to be held at Buffalo church

BUFFALO — Life Resources Counseling Services and Deborah Company Midwest Region are hosting Spirit Speak, an Autism Symposium on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Buffalo United Methodist Church in Buffalo. The free event will offer information about Autism and care and treatment for individuals with Autism Spectrum disorder.

The event is designed for par-

ents, professionals and interested parties.

For more information, including registration, visit www.debcomidwest.com/conferences, email life-resource@comidwest.com or call (763) 442-2438.

Group releases report on international abortions

BLAINE — Human Life Alliance (HLA) recently released "Endangered: Our Future in Peril," which aims to educate readers worldwide about the realities of abortion.

According to the group, "Endangered" informs readers "about a variety of abortion-related issues including abortion methods, the overpopulation myth, the humanity of the preborn child, as well as who is funding and driving abortion worldwide."

For more information about HLA or to request copies of "Endangered," visit www.humanlife.org or call (651) 484-1040.

Fellowship group to hold potluck

PLYMOUTH — The Single Parent Christian Fellowship will hold its monthly social potluck supper on Friday, Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at West Medicine Lake Park in Plymouth. Guests are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Adults, children and alumni are welcomed.

Following the potluck, those gathered will have an opportunity to play volleyball.

For more information on the group or the monthly potluck, call (612) 866-8970.

Teens travel to Haiti to help children

SAINT PAUL — Teens from First Covenant Church of St. Paul and two other churches left for Haiti earlier this month to help children there. World Wide Village, Inc. (WWV), a St. Paul-based nonprofit, will host the teens and organize their activities.

While in Haiti, the teens will paint a children's home, build desks for a school and construct a playground.

In addition, WWV asked the teens to be the subject of a documentary about their trip and experiences.

"I was inspired by these teens the first time I heard their story," said John Hagerman, development director of WWV, via a press release. "They are taking on a tough challenge, and I knew we had to capture their story on video so we could share it with everyone."

The working title of the film is "Transformation? Change in the Moment."

For more information about WWV, visit www.worldwidevillage.org or call (612) 669-7365.

U of M campus ministries combine

MINNEAPOLIS — The MacLaurin Institute and Christian Student Fellowship (CSF), campus ministries based at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities, recently announced that they will combine under the name of the MacLaurin Institute. Both ministries have been active at the U of M for many years.

In a letter to supporters, Bryan Bademan, executive director of the MacLaurin Institute wrote: "We are so excited that CSF has expressed an unqualified commitment to our

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An open house is planned for mid-September at the current CSF Center at 1337 Cleveland Avenue North in St. Paul.

For more information on the merger, visit www.maclaurin.org.

Outreach aims to transform foreclosed homes

SAINT PAUL — The Frogtown Community House Project (FCHP), a new ministry based in St. Paul, aims to purchase foreclosed homes in St. Paul’s Frogtown neighborhood and transform them into efficient “green” homes—homes that generate more energy than they consume. The ministry also plans to add a community garden, thus providing “a natural magnet for outreach, bringing hope to area residents,” according to a letter sent to prospective supporters.

The effort, based on Acts 2:42-47, hopes to fight blight and bless neighborhoods through “residential and spiritual reclamation.”

For more information on the new initiative, call John at (651) 231-6021 or visit www.youngadultkoinonia.net to make a financial contribution.

The ministry is looking for prayer support, donation of building materials and labor, planting assistance and community outreach.

Human cloning ban not in final bill passage

SAINT PAUL — During the recent special legislative session that ended the state government shutdown, legislators did not reauthorize a ban on state-funded human cloning, according to Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL). The ban was initially passed in 2009 and needed to be reauthorized this legislative session.

“In these hard economic times when so many Minnesotans are hurting, it is a tragedy that our taxpayer dollars can now be wasted to create and kill the tiniest human beings,” said MCCL President Leo

LaLonde, via a press release. “Many states and countries and the United Nations have called for an all-out ban on all forms of human cloning, but here in Minnesota we will now actually make state funds available to create a human clone. This is despite the fact that polling consistently shows that the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to human cloning.”

For more information about MCCL, visit www.mccl.org.

Church to host car rally

ANOKA — The second annual Polk Street Car Rally will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Elim Baptist Church in Anoka. The event will include a barbeque meal, concert, inflatable rides and carnival games.

The classic car show will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., with judging beginning at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, including admission prices, visit www.elim-anoka.org or call (763) 421-8124.

MN Council of Churches CEO to step down

MINNEAPOLIS — The Rev. Gary Reiersen recently announced that he will step down from his position as CEO of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC). His departure will occur in July of 2012.

“Having gotten through the worst of the recession in a strong position, financially and programatically, it is a good time now for a new leader to guide GMCC into the future and, hopefully, to the next level of impact,” Reiersen said via a media release.

According to GMCC, since Reiersen’s arrival at the community service organization, it has more than doubled its programs. GMCC has 700 member congregations, making it the largest council of churches in North America.

“A succession plan developed under previous board leadership included asking Gary to give a year’s notice,” Susan Sands, GMCC board chair said. “We are grateful for this and expect it will give us ample time to do a thorough search for a new leader.”

For more information about GMCC, visit www.gmcc.org.

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inaugural Hebraic Roots Conference to be held

BLOOMINGTON — Good News for Israel (GNFI), a Minnesota-based Messianic organization, will host the inaugural Hebraic Roots Conference Oct. 13-15 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

The conference is titled "Reconnecting the Branches to the Roots" and will explore how Christianity's future is tied to the past.

Speakers include Marty Goetz, a recording artist; Don Finto, author of "Your People Shall be My People"; Keith Johnson, author of "A Prayer to Our Father: Hebrew Origins of the Lord's Prayer"; Lois Tverberg, author of "Listening to the Language of the Bible: Hearing It Through Jesus' Ears"; and Scott Volk, pastor of FIRE Church and leader of FIRE School of Ministry.

For more information on the event, including registration, visit www.gnfi.org/hrc or email conference@gnfi.org.

Annual conference to focus on end times

EDEN PRAIRIE — The Understanding the Times 2011 Conference will be held Oct. 7-8 at Grace Church in Eden Prairie. The free event is sponsored by Jan Markell and Olive Tree Ministries.

Speakers at this year's conference include Joel Rosenberg, a best-selling author and founder of The Joshua Fund; Dr. Mark Hitchcock, a pastor and author of more than 20 books; Brannon Howse, founder of American Family Policy Institute; Eric Barger, author and Christian apologist; and several other speakers.

No registration is needed for the conference.

For more information, visit www.olivetreeviews.org or call (763) 559-4444.

Rivendell Sanctuary to hold lecture series

BLOOMINGTON — Rivendell Sanctuary will hold a lecture series, featuring four leading scholars, beginning in August. Dr. Jeff Zweerink of Reasons to Believe will kick off the series with his Aug. 11 lecture "Science and Christianity: Friends or Foes?" His lecture is followed by Darrow



Jeff Zweerink opens Rivendell Sanctuary's lecture series on Aug. 11 with a lecture titled, "Science & Christianity: Friends or Foes?"

Miller on Aug. 25 who will speak on critical thinking; Dr. Michael Behe will lecture on biology Sept. 22, and Dr. William Lane Craig will close out the lecture series on Dec. 15 with a talk on theology.

The lecture series is free and open to the public and will be held at Bethany Church in Bloomington.

For more information, visit www.rivendellsanctuary.com or call (952) 996-1451.

Outpost Ministries to present lecture series

SAINT PAUL — The second annual Outpost Educates Lecture Series will feature Dr. Peter Jones, whose talk is titled "God of Sex."

The event will take place on Friday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blue Room at Northwestern College. Suggested donation is \$10; students with an ID get in free.

For more information on the lecture series, visit www.outpostministries.org.

Outreach to focus on prayer and healing

CANNON FALLS — Wings of Eagles Prayer Outreach, which offers prayers and healing for fear and rejection, spiritual abuse, recovery from cult environments and other issues is sponsoring the Crossing-2Freedom² event Aug. 25-27 at Christ Church in Cannon Falls.

Speaker and author Jan Hicks will lead the event, which will focus on the steps to overcoming bitterness, anger, jealousy, envy and fear.

For more information on the event, call (952) 201-2687 or email healingyourheart@hotmail.com.

Christian Community Fair is becoming 'bigger'; looking for volunteers

MINNEAPOLIS — The Christian Community Fair will host its sixth annual gathering at the Minneapolis Convention Center Nov. 11 and Nov. 12. The free event regularly draws more than 10,000 people and more than 200 vendors.

This year, the Fair is moving across the river to the Minneapolis Convention Center, a space that will allow the event to grow—with a larger petting zoo, more inflatables and more interactive opportunities for families. In addition, The Salvation Army Dodgeball Tournament will expand to include college-age teams as well as high school teams.

For more information on The Christian Community Fair, including volunteer opportunities, contact Rich Branham at (763) 670-5051.

Church to host praise and worship event

BROOKLYN CENTER — Lutheran Church of the Master and Gospel Safari Ministries will present The Power of Praise and Worship event Aug. 12 and 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Master in Brooklyn Center.

The event will feature Allen DePraiser Doue, Gospel Safari Ministries of Monrovia, Liberia, and Gospel artist Comfort Kunn.

A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call (763) 561-5852 or visit www.lcmonline.net.

Feed My Starving Children pledges help for East Africa

COON RAPIDS — Feed My Starving Children recently announced its commitment of 1.36 million meals to those suffering through famine in East Africa. The next shipment will be sent to Sultan Aliyow's tribe of 40,000 people in southern Somalia.

The Amoud Foundation of Texas has contributed to the shipping costs of the food.

For more information on Feed My Starving Children and volunteer opportunities, visit www.fmsc.org.

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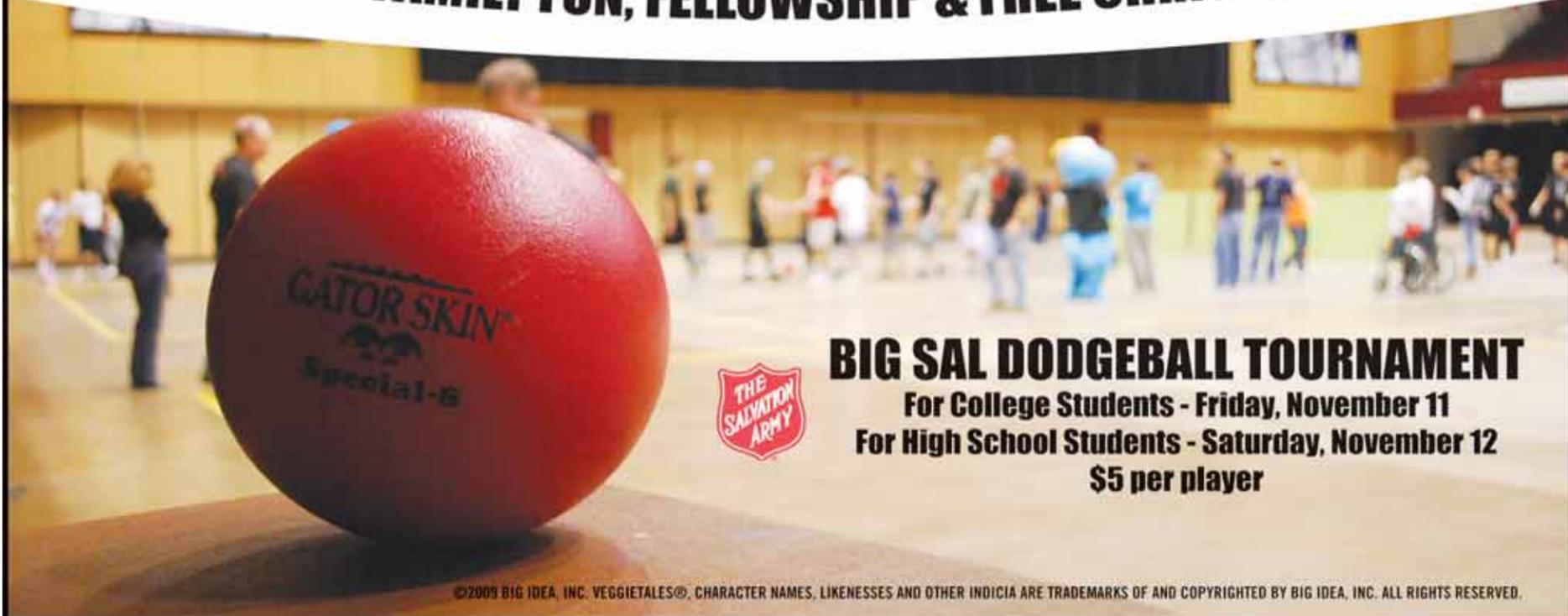


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Christian high school focuses on service-learning model

Students encouraged to integrate faith with service

By Scott Noble

FRIDLEY — When Calvin Christian School began operation 50 years ago in Edina, the goal of the fledgling K-8 school was eventually to start a high school. While the idea was always present, it took more than 40 years for it to be realized.

In 1991, the school expanded and opened a new campus for K-8 in Blaine. Calvin Christian High School was founded in 2004 and currently resides at Grace Evangelical Free Church in Fridley.

Prior to opening in 2004, Calvin Christian High School organizers spent 10 years in research and development, attempting to create an effective educational model that would combine solid learning with a Christian approach.

Wendell Schaap, principal of the high school, said the organizing committee asked the question: "What do we know about teaching and learning,

about good teaching and learning and how could we put that into practice? And then think seriously about Christian education and how that might look different from our current educational system."

What they came up might look a bit different than a traditional private Christian school perspective; however, the new model is something school officials are confident will help train students to become more effective Christians in the broader culture.

The school uses several themes on which to base its curriculum, including the themes of justice, care of God's world and discernment of culture. These themes are integrated into the learning model, and teachers utilize the themes in their teaching units.

In addition, the school has identified seven aims that students will pursue, including "Experience faith as the foundation of personal identity, the



Calvin Christian High School utilizes experiential learning along with more traditional instruction; students recently participated in a two-day geology field trip.

course of calling to a life of service and the impetus to life in the community; cultivate attitudes, habits and skills that allow them to flourish as individuals, as community members and as Christ's servants in the wider world; and develop the interests, knowledge and abilities to become engaged viewers, listeners and participants in music, dance, theatre and the fine arts."

Schaap believes the aims and the school's commitment to working in the community are aspects that make Calvin unique.

"We do have kids in the community a lot," he said. "We have something that we call 'service-learning' ... which is that [the] foundation of our identity is tied to our faith. It's an impetus for a life in community, and it can't be separated from that."

Students live that out each week when they visit kids in the community for an afternoon. During the last academic year, Calvin students visited Stevenson Elementary School in Fridley to tutor the students there in math and reading.

Schaap said when Calvin moved to the Fridley campus, they were looking to help meet needs in the community, and they discovered that Stevenson had only a few English Language Learner (ELL) teachers for more than 100

students.

"We just saw that as a place where we could meet some of their needs and serve them that way," Schaap said.

During the next academic year, which begins in September, Schaap hopes to partner with another school in Robbinsdale.

Calvin not only teaches students about the importance of the school's aims and its commitment to the service-learning component, but students are also required to demonstrate how these components have been integrated into their education.

"[Students] do a project," Schaap said. "It's called their senior project. One of the components is that they keep a portfolio of everything that they have done through their four years [of high school]. They have to look through that, and they have to connect products of their education to each of the aims—to show their growth."

The response from the students has been positive, according to Schaap.

"One of the things that the kids have told us ... is that the service-learning ... having it be a part of our curriculum, a part of our school day ... has ingrained in them this concept that service is a part of their whole life, just a part of who they are, who they are called to be," he said. "Every time our kids go

out, they have to write a reflection: What did you do today and how does it fit in with the overall needs in this plan; what are you learning by serving?"

One Calvin graduate who now attends Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, was so influenced by Calvin's aims and service-learning model that she now is majoring in social work and theatre in hopes of bringing shalom to low-income neighborhoods.

A current student, who hopes to become a teacher, recently spent a semester studying and volunteering at Stevenson Elementary School contemplating how diversity impacts teaching and learning.

While Schaap is quick to point out that the school doesn't have all the answers and they make mistakes, they are focused on being obedient today and trusting God to take care of the results.

For a school that took nearly 50 years to become a reality, Calvin remains focused on how it can daily impact students with the idea of learning and serving with a heart of Christ.

➔ ACTIONPOINT
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