

North Central Connection

North Central
Conference



SUMMER 2017



COMMENTS FROM THE COACH Supt Mike Hopper

King Solomon wrote: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10) What a blessing to experience a good team effort.



A few weeks ago, my wife Janet and I moved from Minnesota to Janesville, Wisconsin. Our move was made much easier as 20 persons in Minnesota assisted in loading the moving van, and 25 persons from our Janesville Church helped empty that same 26-foot moving van in just 1 ½ hours! What great team efforts!

A few days later, one of our new neighbors told me that he was impressed with what he saw happen and that he wondered how he might have a team like that help him the next time he moved. I used the

opportunity to witness to him and invited him to church.

Working together with other believers to serve our Lord can be an uplifting experience, and it can also be a powerful witness to others who are watching. What about you? Are you an active part of your church team? If not, ask your pastor today how you can serve God with the gifts and ability that God has given you.



Bringing Jesus to the North
Central United States



North Central Conference

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Annual Conference Wrap Up



On June 1-3, 2017, Free Methodist pastors, delegates, other leaders, and their families gathered at Sky Lodge Christian Camp in Montello, Wisconsin for the 2017 North Central Annual Conference. Over 250 participants came from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Kansas, Indiana, and even Costa Rica for a time of worship, equipping, business, and fellowship. The theme for this conference was “Growing Healthy Churches.”

At conference, three individuals (Uriel Duran; Richard Broberg; and Erik Anderson) were ordained as elders, and one elder (Dale Kaufman) was received by transfer. In addition, three persons (Amy Johnson, Pradeep Rai, and Tim Wauchope) were received as Conference Ministerial Candidates. Special greetings were brought by Linda Adams (International Child Care Director), Glen Lorenz (Missionary to Costa Rica), Chris DeBacker (Free Methodist Foundation), John Adams (Olive Branch Mission), and Chuck Frankenfeld (Superintendent of the Great Plains Conference).

Times of worship included Bishop David Kendall sharing challenging messages, and a worship team led by Paul Alf provided uplifting music. The “State of the Work” report shared by Superintendent Mike Hopper highlighted various team efforts from across the conference this past conference year. Break-out sessions focusing on healthy leadership were provided for the pastors, pastor’s wives, and delegates by Supt Mike, Janet Hopper, and Larry Roberts (Free Methodist World Ministries Center CEO). Helpful tools and insights were shared to assist churches in evaluating and improving their health.

As for church planting, a special time of commissioning was held to officially recognize the launching of a Nepali language church in Fargo, ND led by Pastor Pradeep Rai. It was also announced that Scott Whiting of Janesville will be serving as the new Coordinator of Church Planting.

Part of our annual conference celebration included the dedication of our newly expanded Hitching Post at Sky Lodge Christian Camp. Director Steve Hankins explained to the crowd how this recreational facility will be used in ministry for our Lord, and Supt Mike led in prayer.

Annual Conference concluded with Bishop Kendall reading the pastoral appointments for the new conference year. The new senior pastor appointments included Pradeep Rai (Fargo-Nepali, ND), Tim Ward (Fillmore, MN), Erik Anderson (Fitchburg, WI), Richard Broberg (McConnell, IL), Tim Wauchope (Richland, IL), and Dale Kaufman (Richland Center, WI). New staff appointments included Michael Jasinski (Beloit, WI), Amy Johnson (Freeport, IL), and Andy Leisher (Peoria-First, IL).

Superintendent Mike concluded the State of the Work report with these words: “What a great team effort was done by the Cubs! And what a great team effort by our conference and our local churches. Let’s pray that our team will grow healthier and stronger, and become even more effective in ministry for our Lord – making more and better disciples in this coming year.”



Healing Services at Beloit

Several months ago, Beloit FMC started holding "healing services" on the last Sunday of every month that has five Sundays. Just days before our first healing service, Pastor Rich received a phone call from Laura, a woman who had attended in the past. Her husband, Jorri, had stage four lung cancer. She said, "Jorri asked me to call you and ask you for prayers because he likes and respects you."

Pastor Rich prayed with Laura over the phone and also invited her to bring Jorri to the healing service. Laura was not sure Jorri would go—it was a leap for him to ask for prayer, let alone allow people to lay hands on him. However, Sunday morning their whole family was there. We laid hands on Jorri and anointed him with oil and prayed for a complete healing.

Jorri underwent radiation treatment. After his scan, Jorri shared how when placed on the CAT scan table he closed his eyes. At that point in the conversation Jorri began to weep. He continued, "When I started praying I could feel all the hands of the people from Beloit touching me and I started crying like I am now. The doctor asked if I was OK and I said, 'yes I am just praying.'"

The results are as follows: The spot of cancer on Jorri's back is dead. The spot on his lungs appears to be dead also, although they are only 85% sure of that one because of how the radiation damaged the tissue around it and made the scan cloudy there. There were no new spots. It appears Jorri is no longer stage four cancer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

11-13 Senior High Connection at Sky Lodge Christian Camp, Montello, WI
23 Founding Day for the Free Methodist Church (1860)

SEPTEMBER

6-8 "Starting Strong" in Indianapolis, IN
8-10 Sportsmen's Retreat at Heartland Christian Camp, Birmingham, IA
16 Conference Prayer Retreat at Sky Lodge Christian Camp, Montello, WI
24 Freedom Sunday
29-Oct 1 Women's Retreat at Sky Lodge Christian Camp

OCTOBER

28 Hispanic Summit

NOVEMBER

6-8 Pastors' Retreat – Dubuque, IA
12 International Day for the Persecuted Church
23 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

25 Christmas Day



Family Camp Fun

On July 8-14, Sky Lodge Christian Camp in Montello, WI hosted Family Camp. Bishop David Roller shared Biblical stories in his inspiring messages throughout the week, and the worship music was provided by Pursuit from Greenville University. Volunteers provided fun activities and Christian instruction for the children and youth throughout the week.



Heartland Family Camp

Former General Evangelist Lucien Behar and Molly Behar ministered at the Heartland Family Camp in mid-June and joyfully lifted up the name of Christ. About 100 people attended.



Nepali Church Impact

Since its inception, God has mightily used the Nepali First Free Methodist Church to reach out to the broader Nepali community. Five individuals were recently baptized. A year ago the attendance of the church was about 30, and now it has grown to sixty people. A special commissioning time of prayer was held with Pastor Pradeep Rai and delegate Ghale Dhan at annual conference.



Platteville Mission Trip

9 students and 2 youth leaders from the Platteville (WI) FMC traveled to Juarez, Mexico for a missions trip to Broken Hearts Ministry.

Livingston, WI Hit by Storm

On Wednesday, June 28, the village of Livingston, WI (pop. 665) was hit with 90 MPH straight-line winds as part of a series of severe storms that pummeled SW Wisconsin. The winds knocked down 80 power poles and knocked out power to the entire village of Livingston. Praise the Lord—there were no injuries in the area and very minimal property damage. Trees and branches went down, but most did no damage to houses or other structures.

Pastor Greg Marsh assisted the Livingston-Clifton Fire Department in trying to locate any community member who needed power for medical equipment. The church also began to prepare to meet the needs of people by having bottled water and the church basement available as a cooling station. The local emergency food pantry, directed by Pastor Greg, began to receive additional donations of perishable food items to help families replace food that had to be thrown away due to lack of refrigeration. They also received monetary donations to help provide cash vouchers for people to buy things like milk, eggs, and bread.



We thank our fellow FM churches in Freeport, LaFarge, Richland Center, and Platteville for providing food and monetary assistance. We are grateful for all the support we received. On Sunday, July 9th, there was a community service of thanks organized by Pastor Greg and the Livingston FMC to be held at the local fire station. *"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever!" -Psalm 107:1*

NEWS FROM THE HENDRICKSONS

Greetings from Chicago! I have not had the pleasure of meeting many of you since transferring into the NCC last year from the Acts 12:24 region, so I wanted to take this opportunity to update you all about some of our family news.

For those of you who have not met me yet, my name is Craig Hendrickson, and I have had the privilege of serving on a special appointment here in Chicago since 2010. From 2010-2013, I served as the Athletic Chaplain and CollegeLife Coordinator at North Park University, and for the last year, I have served as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies and Program Head of the Evangelism and Discipleship major at the Moody Bible Institute.

My wife Mary continues to serve as the Assistant Director of Admissions over the MA in Counseling Psychology program, as well as Adjunct Professor of Counseling Psychology at both North and Moody. Together, we are enjoying life and ministry in Chicago with our daughter Amaya and are excited to be a part of the NCC family.

Now for our news. First, Mary completed her EdD in Pastoral Community Counseling last September and is currently exploring more opportunities to teach and write in her field. Amaya and I are very proud of her hard work and diligence in completing this life-long dream.



Second, my daughter Amaya will be competing in the AAU Track and Field Junior Olympics for the third year in a row in Ypsilanti, MI in August. We're excited for this opportunity for her and look forward to cheering her on as she pursues medals in the High Jump, Shot Put, and Turbo Javelin.

Finally, it was a thrill for me to receive my PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary last month after ten long years of study. We got to celebrate with friends and family in Pasadena in June and reconnect with many we haven't seen since our time in the FMCSC from 2006-2010. Overall, it's been a busy year but one full of blessings and joy. I look forward to seeing you all soon at one of our upcoming NCC events.

Additional Pictures from Annual Conference



Commissioning of Nepali Church Plant in Fargo, ND



Ordination of three new elders



Newly Ordained Elders: Uriel (& Danielle) Duran; Richard (& Kathryn) Broberg; Erik (& Sara) Anderson



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