



www.nwc-cov.org

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Vital Churches

Pastor Installations

May 2, 2004
David Bergstrom Mahtowa
Covenant Church, Mahtowa
MN
-and-
Big Lake Covenant, Cloquet
MN

May 16, 2004
Nathan Powell
Evangelical Covenant Church,
Anoka MN

June 6, 2004
Mark Chapman Elim Evan.
Covenant Church, Stockholm
SD -and-
Evangelical Covenant, LaBolt
SD

June 20, 2004
Brett Schmidt Evangelical
Covenant Church, Buffalo
MN

Pray for these pastors and their churches.

Imprints

The Journal of the Northwest Conference

Vital Churches, Planting Churches, Planting Ministries

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From the Superintendent

Greetings from your Northwest Conference Office! This is the first edition of the electronic version of *Imprints* and we hope it will be an effective resource and an encouragement to you in your ministry. This medium gives us the freedom to communicate with you on a much more timely and efficient basis. We encourage you to send your comments and questions to feedback@nwc-cov.org. We also encourage you to regularly check out the conference Web site at www.nwc-cov.org.

It has been a pleasure to meet with you in a variety of settings throughout the conference. New pastors are being installed, buildings are being dedicated, and most significantly of all people are finding new life in Christ.

Your conference staff will use the next few weeks as a time of prayer and planning as we develop strategy to support the work of our local congregations. Our staff will present a plan to the conference executive board in July and we will work

together to implement it throughout the conference. Our mission in the conference is *Vital Churches, Planting Churches, Planting Ministries* and we are supporting and developing strategies to fulfill that mission.

It was a privilege for our conference to be the site of this year's annual meeting of our denomination. Covenant people from around the world attended the meeting which was held in Minneapolis at First Covenant Church and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. It was so encouraging to hear the great things that God is doing through our shared ministry.

On a personal note, I want you to know that I will have hip replacement surgery on July 23. I will be out of the office for a couple of weeks, but would be pleased to have you call me at my home. My colleagues in the office are here to help you in any way they can. I am grateful for your prayers and support.

Planting Ministries

U.Y.M.O. (Upcoming Youth Ministry Opportunities)

M.U.U.C.E. (The Most Unbelievable Ultimate Urban Camping Escape)

August 19-21, 2004- Faith Covenant- Burnsville

"Don't be an Island" is this year's theme which will center on the idea of community—that the Christian life is more about a journey together than a solo experience. This is a junior high/middle school experience loaded with high energy activities and worship. Registration information has been sent to every church. Registration deadline is July 26th. Direct

your questions to Rob Jacobson at 952-890-3110.

S.A.L.T. (Student Action Leadership Training)

October 10, 2004- Redeemer Covenant- Brooklyn Park

This is a one day leadership training event for senior high students and their leaders. This year we will be focusing on the characteristics of a leader based on 1 Timothy 4: 12- "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in

speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." Registration information will be available early fall.

M.O.V.E. (Mission Outreach Venture & Experience)

April 8-9, 2005- First Covenant- Minneapolis

MOVE is a transforming mission challenge/urban service weekend for high school students. Mark your calendars now. Since 1994, several thousand of our students have participated in this annual mission experience.

Spotlight on Covenant Retirement Communities

Village Residents Invigorate Traditional Ministry

Rolling bandages for medical missions in Congo. In the technologically sophisticated 21st century, it seems like a quaint activity from a bygone era. After years of rolling, Covenant Women Ministries was ready to abandon it. But first members checked with Jim Sundholm, director of Covenant World Relief, to see if the effort was worth continuing.

The answer surprised everyone, including Sundholm. The reusable bandages created from rolling strips of used sheets could save \$180,000 in purchased bandages annually. Suddenly, there was new zeal for a 65-year-old ministry. But how to get things rolling again?

Covenant Women Ministries national board member Cyd Cole Johnson pictured the woodshop she had seen while visiting her parents at Covenant Village of Golden Valley. She thought it would be a perfect factory for bandage-rolling machines—relatively simple U-shaped wooden frames with a crankshaft for rolling fabric. She asked her parents, Village residents Adele and John Cole, to ask the woodshop craftsmen if they would consider the project.

Enthusiastic mission outreach

“Mrs. Cole approached one of the fellows on our woodshop steering committee and asked if we could make some of these machines,” recalls Covenant Village woodshop steering committee member Roger Lindholm. “We thought it was very doable and a tremendous mission outreach for our group. We were really excited about the opportunity.”

Using plans provided by Covenant Women Ministries, the steering committee made two prototypes and presented the project to the annual meeting of the woodshop group. The group embraced the project whole heartedly.

“We told Mrs. Cole we would take it on,” says Roger. “But we wanted to make a couple modifications to the design.”

The experienced craftsmen had already identified improvements that would make the machines more user friendly. “We could see right away that the machine was not grabbing the material,” explains Roger. “We planned to cut grooves in the metal cranks by using a knurling die on the metal lathe to solve that problem.”

They also wanted to make the base a bit longer so it would be easier to clamp the 10- by 10- by 8-inch machine to the table.

The group set to work. They used \$378 in woodshop funds to purchase the plywood, quarter-inch steel rods, quarter-inch

dowels and other supplies needed to create 100 bandage rolling machines.

Eleven of the Village craftsmen set up an assembly line that started with cutting the machine’s base and sides and ended with finishing each machine with polyurethane. They created jigs to help accurately drill holes in the sides, bend the quarter-inch steel rod into a crank, and position the base and the two sides during final assembly. The machines are adjustable so they can accommodate two-, three-, or four-inch wide fabric.



Carl Elving finishes a bandage rolling machine.

While elegantly simple to use, the machines are labor-intensive to produce. Plus, the Covenant Village craftsmen are sticklers for quality.

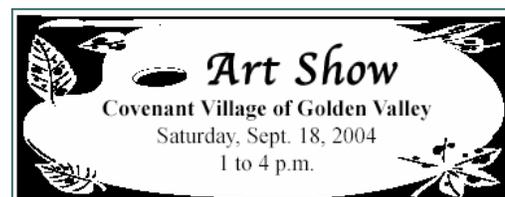
Just the beginning

When production was complete, each machine was packaged in a plastic bag with a three-inch clamp and a sheet of instructions for assembly and use. The group had even improved the instruction sheet, adding labeled color pictures for clarity.

The machines are stored at Brookdale Covenant Church, Brooklyn Center, Minn., while Toni Schwabe, director of Covenant Women Ministries for the Northwest Conference, distributes them to interested churches. They were a hot item at the Northwest Conference annual meeting.

“We will have a table at Covenant Women Ministries’ Triennial in Portland,” says Cyd. “We would like to sell them for a modest fee so people can take them back to their churches and have prototypes in their conferences.” Proceeds will be used to ship rolled bandages to the national Covenant Church in Congo (CEUM).

Covenant Women Ministries hopes the Village enthusiasm for bandage rolling will spread nationwide and cross all age groups. It’s a homespun project with a simple, yet lofty goal: roll a bandage, fill a need, tie a bond with the church in Congo.



Planting Churches

Anatomy of a New Church Plant

God is opening up some wonderful doors in church planting within the Northwest Conference! Our most recent project involves a new church being planted in Hastings, Minnesota. The new church planter is David Hugare, who has been the Youth Pastor at CrossRoads Covenant Church in Cottage Grove for the past seven years. David will continue to serve on the staff at CrossRoads throughout the summer months as "Resident Church Planter". Then in September he will serve as the pastor of the new church plant on a full time basis. CrossRoads is serving as the "parent" church and the

Lake Pepin District (the district to which this church will belong) will be lending additional support. The name of the church is yet to be determined, but Pastor Hugare is already beginning to formulate direction and strategy. The following article, *A New Church Plant*, contains some of Dave's thoughts about this exciting process. Please be in prayer for this new adventure, remembering David and Leslee Hugare as they take this step of faith...

A New Church Plant by *Dave Hugare, CrossRoads Covenant Church*

In recent months, I have had a lot of people ask me, "What kind of church are you planting?" I also get asked a lot about how you actually go about planting a church. These are great questions, and the type that will largely get answered over time. But it got me to ask my own question about the church plant; "What is God calling this new church plant to be?" We feel that God is calling this new church plant to be a different kind of church. What is God calling this new church plant to be? **A Missional Jesus Community.** Let me explain.

Missional. We live in an ever-changing world. Our culture will continue to change and with these changes come many different challenges for the church. In fact, it is said that we live in a post-industrial world, even an anti-Christian world. It is in response to this that we will seek to be a Missional church.

Missional means people who will "go-out" and become instruments of Gospel in an ever-changing world. The result is not a church building, program, worship style, or event. The result will be a people who are willing to be Jesus in the world without embracing the world. A people who are "blessed and called to be a blessing to all." (Genesis 12)

Jesus. People today are increasingly disillusioned with the institutional church and organized religion. More and more people seem to have fewer and fewer nice things to say about Christians. But they don't seem to have a problem with Jesus. So we dream of a church that will continually point people to Jesus, his teachings, his life, and the forgiveness and redemption that is found in him.

Community. We will seek to be a church that embraces one another in community. A church that finds vital ways to connect people with each other and with God. In a world full of disconnectedness and loneliness, we will be a people who seek to embrace each other and together week and embody the truth of Jesus Christ and who He is calling us to be. (Acts 2:44-47)

Now, about the question, "How does one go about planting a church?" Here is a quick sketch of how a church plant happens, including how it is happening for this particular church plant.

1. **Location** We've recently determined that the new church will be in the Hastings, Minnesota area. This appears to be the most strategically viable and effective location, especially in the context of core group development and the assistance we will receive from both CrossRoads and the other churches of the Lake Pepin district.
2. **Vision Casting** We will soon be conducting informational meetings to share the vision, passion, and dreams for this new church. It will be an opportunity to discuss with the CrossRoads family and others what this church plant is all about and what we believe it means to be called to be a Missional Jesus Community.
3. **Creating a Core Team** For those in the CrossRoads family and others who find themselves truly called by God to the passion, vision, and dream for this church, there will be an opportunity to join what is called the *Core Team*. This team will understand and share the vision, passion, and values for this church and will commit themselves to participation in its implementation.
4. **Core Team Development** Through gatherings, events, mission and vision casting, prayer (this one is very important), and preview services, the Core Team will develop into the initial participants, strategists, and leaders in the church.
5. **Launch** When all the kinks are worked out (well, most of them), the grand opening will really happen! Then, we will strategically and passionately live out who God is calling us to be: **A Missional Jesus Community.**

Excited? So are we. We can't wait to see what God has in store for this new adventure in Kingdom-building. Thanks for your prayers and support, and maybe God is calling you, too, to be a part of this new community.

Planting Ministries Notebook

Bikes for Congo is a bike ride to raise money to resupply bicycles to Covenant pastors in Congo. In the turbulent years following 1996, 250 bikes were stolen in the Congo civil war. The total cost of resupplying the bikes is \$25,000.

The bike ride begins in Biwabik, Minnesota on August 4th, and after stops at Covenant Park Bible Camp in Matawah and Harris Covenant Church, it will conclude on August 7th at the Luis Palau Festival on the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul, Minnesota.

If you can ride, join us. If you can't, please find a rider and make a pledge. Or, please pray for us.

For more information, contact Pastor Paul Langmade, 218-282-3365, pastorpaul@growingchurch.org, or Pastor Don Johnson, 651-633-9615, djohnson@salemcov.org.

HELPing Churches

This spring we launched the 2004 HELP (**H**ands **E**xtended **L**oving **P**eople) offering campaign. HELP is a once a year coordinated offering to provide financial support for ministry grants given through our Churches Planting Ministries initiative. These grants are made available to support congregations beginning or expanding community ministry initiatives for poor and at-risk neighbors. The funds raised within our conference are matched up to \$30,000 by Covenant Ministries of Benevolence in support of the grant program. We thank those churches who have already supported the offering this year and want to encourage everyone else to participate. Churches Planting Ministries-facilitating church and community renewal through ministries of compassion and justice. For more information, contact the Northwest Conference office.

Covenant Women Ministries News

CWM Triennial XI

Triennial is the once-every-three-years gathering of the women of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Set for August 12-15, 2004, Triennial XI will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, Jantzen Beach complex in Portland, Oregon.

But Triennial is more than a gathering. It is an eventful experience, even a watermark, in the lives of those



who come. It is a time to enjoy fellowship of the richest kind with women from all over the country, and all over the world. It is a time to worship God with fullness and joy. It is a time to learn and grow and develop skills to strengthen your spiritual life, or to begin new life with Jesus Christ! It is a moment to relax, unwind, and experience something that you've never done—and to find joy and energy and peace in all of it.

Triennial facts--as of May 25, there were over 100 paid registrants. If you would like to attend, you can go on-line to www.covchurch.org/covwomen to see if there are any openings.

Women's Retreats

Now is the time to start making plans to attend a women's retreat at your Bible camp. This is a weekend of great refreshing and renewal, with speakers, worship, food and fellowship. Listed below are the opportunities available to you. Be sure to check these out!

Lake Beauty – The speaker at Lake Beauty will be Rhea Briscoe (www.lbcc.com)
Retreat Date: September 10-12

Covenant Park Renee Swope presents *The Journey of a Woman's Heart*
Toni Schwabe will conduct a leadership seminar (www.covenantpark.org)
Retreat Date: September 17-19

Covenant Pines The theme for this year is *Let It Shine*, and the speaker will be -Jennie Afman Dimoff
Retreat Date: September 17-19 AND September 24-26 (Information on www.covenantpines.org)

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The Northwest Conference is a regional conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. We are 130 churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

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