

Great Lakes Region Happenings--Vol. 8, No. 49--Dec. 5, 2014

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Ken Thomas, Arnie Kaufman, Bill Shoemaker, and Jim Hostetler (l to r) enjoy breakfast at Bob Evans

Back at the end of October Earl Mills, director for our Great Lakes Region (GRC) churches, hosted a series of gatherings across the Conference for Pastor Appreciation Month and to gather information for the region's strategic planning process. Basically each event consisted of eating breakfast or dinner, sharing ministry highlights and prayer concerns, and talking about the strengths and needs in the Conference and its churches. Earl planned to use the information gathered at a planning retreat to be held in November. He's been working with the local churches to create a conference-wide ministry plan.



Earl and Kim's lovely home



Pastors enjoy the Mills' hospitality



Kim Mills expertly works the griddle

I was able to make three of the five meetings to share what's happening across the Churches of God, General Conference (CGGC). Some were held in restaurants, but the best food was served up by Earl's wife Kim who hosted several of the breakfasts at their home. She prepared good old fashioned farmer's food in abundance: eggs, sausages, bacon, pancakes, toast, oatmeal, fresh fruit, juice, milk, coffee, and more. I want to know why Earl doesn't weigh 300 lbs, and how Kim stays so trim.



Breakfast gathering of retired pastors at the Mills' home



Pastor Jim Klausing (left) with Ed

In mid-November I visited our CrossPoint Church. Bill and Candice Shoemaker began this congregation in 1998, and over the years it's met in several locations. Currently they meet in a renovated storefront setting at 2019 Broad Avenue in Findlay, Ohio.



Ed preaching at CrossPoint

Jim and Angela Klausing serve as the pastoral team leading the church with the assistance of elders Julie Calvin, Pete Male, Carla Nichols, Dan Routzon, and Ed Wymer. The ministry of the church is built around three imperatives: Live passionately, Inspire hope, and Point to Christ.

Back in June, Pastor Jim invited me to come talk about CGGC ministries and preach. I accepted and did just that. As part of the ministry overview I told a story from my 2010 visit to Bangladesh which also served to introduce the message. We worshipped that Sunday morning in a mud walled, thatched roof church building with me preaching. The facility though ever so humble served not only as a sanctuary, but as a school through the week and a periodic clinic for our visiting medical staff. After the service a little old grandmother came to me and asked me something in Bengali. I couldn't understand her words, but her face showed intense longing. Our field director Uttam Dewan translated, "When are you coming to our village?"



The CrossPoint praise team



This question provided a good start point for my message from Acts 16 where the Macedonian man begs Paul and his ministry team to “Come and Help Us!” Using that plea as my title and theme I talked with the church about three things: 1) Praying for God’s vision on where to share the Gospel, 2) Going where He directs, and 3) Being sensitive to the opportunities He provides. In every community, whether in Bangladesh or America, there are many, many people who need and want the Gospel of Jesus to transform their lives and bring hope. They are simply waiting for someone to come and share the “good news” with them. I called upon the congregation to become personally involved in reaching the Findlay community and beyond for Jesus Christ. I asked them to seriously consider becoming involved in our Hear the Call endeavor to start new churches worldwide.

In some ways I was “preaching to the choir” as CrossPoint Church helped Nate and Allison Buck launch Catalyst Church in 2001 and just this year supported Eric and Kate Ferguson in planting Movement Church (both in Findlay). CrossPoint is truly an “Antioch” or sending church as Devon and Tabitha Dillinger, who serve on our Southwest mission field, and Rikkz and Andrea Premnath, who plan to go to India as missionaries, all came out of this congregation. Others in pastoral ministry today, like Brandon and Ellen Kelly, felt their call while at CrossPoint. In addition, the congregation partners with other groups in Findlay (City Mission, Child’s Mentoring Connection, Open Arms, etc.), and supports CGGC missions worldwide.



Mission Board at Crosspoint



Kim Mills arranges the dessert table

Yesterday evening I attended the GRC Christmas dinner held in Findlay. As at any such CGGC event there was good fellowship, excellent food, and great fun. I want to affirm Earl and Kim Mills along with Jan Kaukonen, GRC's administrative assistant, for the spirit of hospitality and appreciation they share with the pastoral families in the region. It really makes the conference feel more like an extended family than a corporate enterprise.



Time to eat!



Playing some silly games together

It's nice to know and be known in ministry on a first name basis. I've noticed this familial connection elsewhere in the CGGC, but I also know sometimes there are those who feel isolated or alone in ministry. All of us need to encourage and support one another more until no such feelings exist among our churches and leaders. Let us use this Christmas season to make all feel welcome, especially our partners in ministry. Try sending a card or giving a greeting to someone who isn't in your usual circle of contacts.



Aaron Kaukonen (left) with Terry and Deborah Steinbauer

P.S.--The first edition of the [Happenings at WTS-Scotland](#) newsletter is now available [online](#). Also, those in the Scotland area, join us for the second annual "Christmas at the Chapel" celebration on the WTS-Scotland campus.



The Second Annual "Christmas at the Chapel"
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
December 21, 2014 at 7 pm
3583 Scotland Road, Scotland PA

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox List

It's time to count up the shoeboxes collected by CGGC churches for [Operation Christmas Child](#) organized by [Samaritan's Purse](#). Please send in your church's name, your region, and the number of shoeboxes collected to communications@cggc.org. Also let us know if your church sent any volunteers to one of the processing centers to help prepare the boxes for shipment overseas. Below is the list we have so far. We've already got over 3,000 with just a few churches reporting in. Let's keep them coming!

Region	Church	# of Boxes
ERC:	Country Meadows Retirement Community	60
	Kennedy's Valley	110
	Mechanicsburg	104
	Mt. Pleasant	60
	Newburg	228
GRC:	Catalyst	75
	College First	253
	Mt. Carmel	100
ARC:	Buchanan	300
	Brunswick First	42
	Center Bethel	352
	Orchard Ridge First	314
MRC:	Berreman & Pleasant Valley	240
	The Crossover	924
	Mt. Pleasant	121
Total		3283



Shoebbox collection table at CrossPoint Church

Winebrenner Seminary Update

Dear CGGC churches and friends,

On Wednesday, December 3 the Winebrenner Theological Seminary Board of Trustees accepted the timeline for Dr. Draper's transition as President of the Seminary. This is a result of Dr. Draper's desire and his personal request. It is not a reflection of any negative action by the board. Dr. Draper will continue in his current role until January 1, 2016.

A search committee has been formed and initial meetings held to start the process. I am serving as the chairperson, with Dr. Joel Cocklin as the faculty and staff representative, along with Pastor Art Battle, Dr. Christine Florendo, and Richard Longsdorff. Any questions or concerns may be addressed to me at the address below.



Dr. David Draper

Below you will see the official announcement for the search to be posted to the Seminary website, CGGC website, and used for various advertisements in theological publications/magazines. Additional information pertinent to the search will be posted on the websites as the process moves forward.

We are grateful for Dr. Draper's leadership and faithfulness to the Seminary community's mission and core values. We covet your prayers for the Seminary's search committee and for Dr. Draper as we move through the stages of this transition.

Blessings always,
Ed

WTS Presidential Search Announcement

Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Findlay, Ohio is seeking a President. Candidates should have an earned doctorate; organizational leadership and managerial skills; demonstrated ability to understand, articulate, and carry out fiscal, academic, and institutional responsibilities; a welcoming and affirming spirit for a broad range of theological perspectives while maintaining an evangelical position; an understanding of governance within theological education; the ability to communicate and network with a variety of constituencies; and the ability to support the school's



mission, vision, core values and basic beliefs. Details will be posted at <http://www.winebrenner.edu>, and *curriculum vitae* may be sent to:

Winebrenner Theological Seminary Presidential Transition
Edward L. Rosenberry, Search Committee Chair
700 East Melrose Avenue
P.O. Box 926
Findlay, Ohio 45839
OR
director@cggc.org

Search for New CGGC Executive Director in Progress



The Churches of God, General Conference, based in Findlay, Ohio, is now receiving applications for the position of Executive Director of the denomination. Bill Reist, CGGC president, is serving as the chairperson of the transition team along with eight others from across the Church.

An application, position description and desired attributes of the Executive Director are available on the Churches of God website or by contacting wreist@collegefirst.org or revrockey@gmail.com. Applications received by December 15, 2014 will be given priority, with a decision to be made, Lord willing, by March 31, 2015.

For more information regarding values, beliefs and history of the CGGC you may visit <http://www.cggc.org/about/> online. Please direct all inquiries pertaining to the Executive Director position to the e-mail addresses above and not to the CGGC offices.

Train Your Church Leaders

In the fall of 1988, my last semester of college, I filled in as the youth pastor at a local church. I was given a key to the church and wished the very best of luck. Truthfully it was a fairly frustrating few months.

I didn't know how to engage volunteers. I didn't know how to turn the youth into an effective team. I didn't know how to develop young leaders. I was young and available. Luck wasn't enough. I needed training. I wasn't the only one.



I have built a solution for developing leaders in your church. You may want to start with yourself. You may want to train your staff or key volunteers. There are three steps to this solution.

Step # 1: Take our "Foundations in Christian Coaching" class. During January and February of 2015, we are offering it at three different locations (Mattoon, IL, Findlay, OH, and Pittsburgh, PA), AND we are offering this class for the first time online.

Step # 2: Take "A Coach Approach to Christian Leadership" class. This class will be taught in Findlay, OH on March 23-24 (Mon-Tue) by Bill Copper, a seasoned ministry coach and teacher.

Step # 3: Take our Mentor Coaching class and hone your coaching skills to a level of confidence.

These three steps will also make you eligible for the Certificate in Christian Leader Coaching from Coach Approach Ministries.

It is very frustrating to be want to lead for your church and not know how to do it. These three classes will give your leaders confidence and tools to lead your church into the vision God has for it.

Can you imagine how much less frustrated and more effective your church leader could be by May of 2015?

To sign up for any or all of these classes, click here: <http://www.coachingclarity.org/become-a-coach/>

Because you are with the Churches of God General Conference, use the Promo Code "CGGC" for a 30% discount on any or all classes.

Listen to my interview with author Reggie McNeal, as he speaks about the importance of building a coaching culture in your church: <http://www.coachingclarity.org/?p=917>

Thanks!
Brian Miller