

Late January Highlights--Vol. 9, No. 8--February 20, 2015

Twenty years ago I used to think of January as a slow time in Church activity, certainly compared to Advent and Christmas, but not any more. The last part of January into February has been especially full this year with meetings and happenings.

ERC Church Planting Dinners: Annually our Eastern Region Conference (ERC) holds a series of dinners across the Conference to promote the establishment of New Churches and raise funds for Church Planting.



This year they sponsored gatherings at Fayetteville, Mechanicsburg, and Manheim the third full week in January. Linda and I attended the one held at Norlo Park near Fayetteville on Monday evening. The Brownsville congregation under the leadership of Victor and Catherine Johnson hosted the event and did a superb job with the food and worship experience.



Victor Johnson

The evening program consisted of a series of personal testimonies about what the Lord is doing around the ERC followed by an offering for new churches. All tallied the three nights raised \$6,144 which has already been distributed to various planting projects around the Region.



Ken Robinson



Jim Moss



The Brownsville worship team



Silent auction items



Church Planting dinner in Fayetteville area



WTS Leadership Luncheon: The following Tuesday, January 27, Linda and I attended a luncheon sponsored by Winebrenner Theological Seminary (WTS). They serve as a host site for Willow Creek's Global Leadership Summit held annually in August, and several times through the year they bring together local church leaders to discuss various topics. We watched a video from the 2014 Summit featuring Jeffrey Immelt, the President and CEO of General Electric who talked about "Positioning Your Organization for the Future." He stressed the importance of simplification and recommended reducing management, being externally focused, putting things on the clock, and empowering people with information and opportunity. Not bad advice for the Church, I thought.



Findlay "experts" (l to r) Father Mike Hoenbrink, Joshua Anderson, John Bookmyer, Pastor Bill Shoemaker



Moderator Jim Allen

We table talked his points for a while before a group panel of our own local "experts" addressed crucial leadership issues and responded to questions from the assembly. Jim Allen of WTS moderated. At the end Dave Draper, WTS president, pronounced the benediction and sent everyone on their way.

Here We Stand Meeting: Last September the Administrative Council appointed a writing team to be led by Mike Walker to take a fresh look at the various position statements on social and moral issues made by the CGGC over the years, some dating back to 1844. Basically the committee was charged with creating a fresh declaration to serve the Church and present to the world the CGGC's views on

various concerns from a biblical perspective. Many of the existing statements need put in their contemporary context and all of them need to be brought together into a unified whole. In addition, several new statements are needed to address the new issues that have arisen since the last document was produced thirty years ago. The committee first met in late September to chart out a course by assessing the existing documents and assigning topics to various writers. Then, three weeks ago the writers came back together to revise and refine. The next gathering will be later this spring to continue the editing process. By this fall or spring 2016 the text should be ready for broader input from across the CGGC.



Old Main on Scotland Campus



Main Auditorium



A view of "Cottage Row"



Dorm room with bunk beds

General Conference 2016 Planning: The General Conference Planning Committee met January 26 and is beginning to work out details for the 2016 CGGC sessions. At this point most things are in the idea or developmental stages. The big certainty is that the sessions will be held in the ERC the last week of July, if possible on the Scotland Campus of Winebrenner Seminary.



The coffee shop, "Brewology"

There's talk of doing some historical site visitation and/or guest pulpit supply the weekend before considering all those coming east for the event. There are plenty of accommodations and restaurants in the greater Chambersburg area, but there should also be some rooms available on Scotland Campus for a more economical rate. Phil Scott and I met with David Newell, Scotland Campus President, on Groundhog Day for a tour of the dorm space and private rooms, as well as the assembly and meeting rooms.



Common area in a dorm

Scotland Campus looks good as the place to meet. However, Allegheny Phil, Dave and I all



WTS Education and Conference Center

saw our shadows when we were together, so you know what that means.



Winter view of the Scotland Campus Chapel

That's it for now, but I'll keep you posted as things above continue to develop. Blessings!

ONE Mission Together,
Ed
Soli Deo Gloria!



Update from the Executive Director Transition Committee

The Committee has completed its first round of interviews in the process of identifying a successor to follow Pastor Edward Rosenberry, who has announced his retirement as Executive Director, effective June 30, 2015. Two candidates have been invited to make focused presentation to the Administrative Council as part of the second round. It is anticipated that the Committee will bring a recommendation to the Administrative Council at its March meeting and an announcement made to the church-at-large shortly after that meeting. We continue to covet your prayer support for the Candidates, the Committee, the Administrative Council, and for Pastor Rosenberry. Thank you for your support.

WTS Presidential Search Underway



With Dr. David Draper's upcoming retirement, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Findlay, Ohio is seeking its next 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
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OR
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Explore God's 4D Love at the Spring Women's Retreat

Ladies, join us at this year's CGWM Women's Retreat! God's love has infinite height, depth, width and length! He has called us to seek His love above all else and share His love everywhere we go. Through the teaching, music, fellowship and unique experiences, we hope that you may come to know His love to the fullest and be able to better share that love with others.

Register by March 1 to beat the price increase. Register online or print off a form at the [CGWM website](#). A video is also available to share with the ladies in your congregation.



The poster features a tree with a heart-shaped canopy and exposed roots. To the right of the tree, the text reads: "4D LOVE at the 2015 CGWM Women's Retreat March 13-15, 2015 Winebrenner Seminary Findlay, Ohio". Below the text is a quote: "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" Ephesians 3:18.

Register at www.WomenForGod.org
or call Becca Shrom at (513) 478-5546
Find us on Facebook: CGWMMarchRetreat

MAN-UP! Conference Coming to Scotland Campus

Scotland Campus

Christian Men, it is Time!

MAN-UP!

Conference for Christian Men

March 20th, Friday –Saturday

Registration 7:00PM

Ends Saturday at 2:30

Key Note Speaker: Ron Hostetler

Penn State/LA Rams/Speaker/Author

Comedy: David Dean

Band: Next2Nothing

Call 552-2220

for more details, register and get
your room assignment.

**\$75.00/pp includes event, meals,
room.**

Where Faith Comes to Life