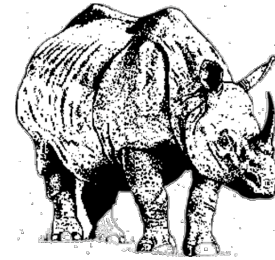


M-CONNECT

Michigan conference

Church of the united brethren

CRASHING THE GATES OF HELL FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD



FEBRUARY 1, 2005

TOGETHER, THEY ARE A CRASH.

EDEN CHURCH UPDATE:

Fire destroyed the fellowship hall, offices and sanctuary of the Eden Church on Friday, January 28. Everyone that was inside the building at the time was able to get out without injury. Pastor Wes Emerson said that the sanctuary looks okay from the outside, but is severely damaged inside and is most likely not salvageable. "Inside, it looks like it was bombed," he says. The new Family Life Center that was dedicated a few months ago has sustained smoke and water damage, but is repairable. There was a fire wall and sprinkler system in the new building which saved the new part, and they are told they will be able to hold services in a few weeks. In the meantime, they are holding service in the First United Methodist Church in Mason at 11:30 AM. The Eden congregation met there Sunday with at least 340 people in attendance. They state that there is a real sense of being unified and getting through what is ahead of them. Pray for them as they begin the process of rebuilding. [There are pictures posted on the Michigan UB Web site: mighiganub.com]

MESSAGE FROM ROGER:

As your superintendent, I am committed to you in your pursuit of becoming healthier churches and healthier pastors. That means pastors and people with a head and heart full of passion for sharing their friendship with Jesus with their friends so those friends have an opportunity to make a decision to follow Jesus.

I was extremely challenged by our Mid-Year Council speaker Dwight Smith. As we advance the Kingdom of God in our world, we need to mobilize ourselves and our people. Dwight gave us a measuring devise for whether we are really empowering our people in ministry: 1. Do we have a relationship with God that changes us? 2. Can the fruit of the Spirit be seen in us growing and multiplying in our inter-personal relationships? 3. Do we live and share in the marketplace our grace story for the ministry of reconciliation? 4. Are we aware of and using our Spiritual gifts in relationship to the life of the church, our network of friends, and in our particular market-place?

This is not the pre-game show! This is the real deal. This is the only crack at being Church that we get. We are here to make a difference of eternal significance. We are here to feed the Bread of Life to a starving world. Being Church is the highest stakes game in town. So, Church, advance -- crash the gates of hell!

NEED FOR STUDY BIBLES:

Sierra Leone has shared with our Conference the need for Sierra Leone pastors to have study Bibles. A call for help was placed at Conference last July. At present, only 4 Bibles have been purchased. There are 23 pastors in Sierra Leone who cannot afford such a valuable tool. We are asking churches to consider \$50.00 donation towards the purchase of New International Study Bibles from the bookstore in Freetown. If you are willing to help, please send your donations to Gary Dilley in Huntington.

COMING EVENTS:

National Board Meeting in Huntington – February 21-22.
Growing a Healthy Church, Level I – Saturday, March 12.

This SonLife seminar is sponsored by the Board of Church Services. It will be held from 9:00 – 2:00 PM at the Crossroads Church, Charlotte.

National Conference in Huntington – June 20-24

Retirees Campout at Camp Living Waters - May 26-30.

This is camping with a purpose. Work 4 hours a day and your camping is free. There is always room for campers. Contact Margaret Maybee, Ph#517-688-3998.

Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn South, Lansing – July 18, 19, 20.

It was necessary to move Conference back one week; therefore, these are different dates than have been previously announced.

Willow Creek Leadership Summit 2005 via satellite – Kentwood Community Church, Grand Rapids – August 11-13.

More information will be forthcoming.

NOTE:

The Heart of the Lakes Church has a short bus for sale. It is a 1983 S-1700 International, 3L V-8, seats 15 people, has a small table, been well-maintained. It is a stick shift. They do not use it anymore and would sell it for \$1500. If anyone is interested, contact Rusty at #517-937-6065 or the church at #517-592-8623.

PRAYER UPDATES:

Tristan Matthews, young son of Howard and Anna Mathews, is doing better. He is still on antibiotics, but has returned to school.

Doris Malson is recovering nicely from her shoulder surgery. She is in therapy, but still is able to volunteer at the hospital weekly.

Judy Atherton is in chemo treatments. Pray for her.

Phyllis Cherry is in chemo treatments also. Pray for her.