



CHRISTIAN REFORMED

HOME
MISSIONS

Great Lakes Bi-Monthly Newsletter

July/August 2009

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Leadership Training Event

On September 24th, 2009, the Leadership Training Event will be held at Brookside Christian Reformed Church. This annual event, co-sponsored by Home Missions and Volunteers in Service, will once again offer a variety of practical and stimulating workshops geared towards church leaders. Elders, deacons and pastors will benefit from these workshops as will leaders in the areas of social justice, congregational life and community ministry. For registration information, log on to the VIS website at www.visgr.org or call the VIS office at 616-459-7500.

Small Group Coaching Clusters: Back by Popular Demand

This past year the Great Lakes Team invited Small Group Coordinators from area churches to participate in coaching clusters. The groups met seven times over a six month period. They shared ideas, brainstormed issues, supported each other and laughed a lot! These groups were instrumental in helping each church grow and develop their small group ministry.

If the small group coordinator from your church would like to sign-up or hear more about this opportunity, email Sam Huizenga (shuizenga@crcna.org) or call the Great Lakes Team office. The cost for the cluster is \$150.00 for the fall/winter sessions.

Re-ignite Small Group Ministry Conference

Save the date! On November 12 & 13, the CRC and RCA will be hosting a small group conference at Christ Memorial Church in Holland. Thursday night, Nov. 12, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, will feature Greg Ogden as the Keynote speaker. He will talk about discipleship in small groups. The evening will also feature breakouts especially designed for small group leadership issues. The cost for Thursday evening is \$10.00 per person or \$50.00 per church to encourage churches to bring many leaders. Friday, Oct 13 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, will serve the broader needs of small group ministries. Greg Ogden and the breakouts will address how to grow disciples, how to build small group ministries as well as other small group issues. The cost for Friday's event is \$40.00 per person, including lunch.

1-800-266-2175
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Prayer Focus - Stark Raving Obedience!

We have an amazing prayer opportunity coming up this August 21-22. Ted and Isaiah Kallman, father and son team will be teaching the church about **Hearing God and Healing Prayer**, based on their book [Stark Raving Obedience](#). This will benefit individuals but also church ministry teams. Imagine how our church councils will change if we corporately learn to listen to God; our prayer ministries, as we learn to pray more effectively for healing; our personal lives as we discern God's will for everyday situations.

The conference will be held Friday evening 7 - 9:30 pm August 21, and Saturday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm at Resurrection Life Church in Grandville. Cost is \$36 before 8/9; \$45 after, or \$28 for CPLN members before 8/9; \$36 after. Discounts available for multiple registrants from same church. Register at:

<http://www.prayerleader.com>.

Order the book at: <http://www.prayershop.org>.

Download the bulletin insert/registration form at:

<http://Bulletin Announcement>

Also note the Midwest Regional Prayer Conference, September 25-26 at Maryland Community Church in Terre Haute, IN. Keynoters are Dave Butts on Everyday Spiritual Warfare, and Dr. Alvin VanderGriend on Finding Joy in Prayer.

Learn more and register at www.prayerleader.com.

Christian Community Development Association Conference Oct 21-25 in Cincinnati Ohio

See next month's newsletter for more information about the upcoming CCDA conference. Churches are asking how they can be more relevant in our ever-changing communities. Many answers will be given at this conference.

www.ccda.org

Parenting Emotions

Any new parent will tell you the transition into parenthood is accompanied by a mixture of emotions, from excitement and joy to fear and trembling. Thankfully, the fear is not so great it paralyzes us, and the joy a new baby brings to the family is a blessing.

Birthing a church involves many of the same emotions in a parent church, but for some reason the fear often does paralyze us and keep us from starting new churches. Westwood CRC (Kalamazoo, MI) was afraid of many things- losing their key leaders and families, continuing to make their budget- when they set out to plant RedArrow Ministries in 2008 (formerly Paw Paw CRC). But along with their fears came excitement, joy, and many blessings. "I believe we've been blessed by this birth even more than the church plant has," says council member Dave Herder.

Their step of faith allowed their church to see God work in new ways. “We’ve seen people get involved who were not serving before, we’ve watched new leaders emerge in our church, and we are at the same place in our budget that we were at this time last year.” If your church would like to experience the excitement, joy, and blessings of a birth, please contact Ben Becksvoort, Home Missions Regional Leader.

Prayer Requests

- for the coaching clusters currently meeting around Small Group Ministry and Prayer ministry. For much growth and encouragement.
- for the Hearing God/Healing prayer conference -for the word to get out to the right people and for many to come and be changed in Jesus' name.
- for Red Arrow Ministries and Westwood CRC as they work together to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- for the VIS speakers to hear from God in their preparation for the ministry event and for God's Spirit to lead those to come who need to be there.