



December 2011

## Events

### **EFCA Theological Conference - Jan. 18-20, Deerfield, IL**

Register today for the 2012 EFCA Theology Conference, *Understanding the Complementarian Position, Considering Implications and Exploring Practices in the Home and Local Church*. Featured presenters are Dr. D.A. Carson and Dr. Robert Yarbrough with panel discussion leader Rev. Tom Nelson. A team pricing and housing option is available, so your pastoral or leadership team may attend together. Be aware attendance may be capped due to space limitations on the TEDS campus in Deerfield. Register today!

[Read more](#)

### **Sabbath Rest Retreat - Jan. 22-24, Timber Bay Retreat Center**

A Sabbath Rest Retreat can equip and motivate pastors and pastoral couples to enjoy a weekly Sabbath experience in their ministries, while enjoying the beauty at Time Bay Retreat Center. The Pastoral Care Team invites you to join them at our next Sabbath Retreat, Jan. 22-24. [Read more](#)

### **NCD Annual District Conference - April 16-17, 2012, Andover, MN**

Local-church ministry, whether vocational or "lay," faces unique obstacles and temptations. The condition of one's heart shapes ministry in the church and determines whether obstacles and temptations are productive or destructive. Paul David Tripp will be our speaker at district conference next spring, addressing the theme *"Dangerous Calling: The Unique Temptations of Ministry in the Local Church."* The conference will be **April 16-17** at Constance EFC in Andover. Like last year, it is designed for both pastoral staff members and lay leaders. More information will come to you in 2012.

### **BUMP (Bridging Urban Missions Project) - July 14-22, 2012, Minneapolis**

For the last 20 years, BUMP has been helping the EFCA emerging generation grow into tomorrow's leaders by connecting them with real people in real ministry. Each summer students minister with an urban church, receiving training on issues in the areas of evangelism, poverty, compassion and justice. These skills are then used to serve the neighborhood in practical ways – leading a VBS or sports camp, hosting a block party, or completing necessary work projects. Students return home ready to apply the same skills in their own churches, communities and nearby cities! Bring a team! Tell someone you know! Volunteer to serve! Pray for BUMP 2012! Support the ministry! [Read more](#).

## Resources

### **On Our Hearts**

*Intimacy With God: Drawing Ever Closer to the Almighty*, by Dr. Benjamin A. Sawatsky

As is the case with so many of us at this time in history, one can be acquainted with us on a number of different levels at church or even as colleagues in ministry together, without receiving an up close and personal window into our abiding walk with our Lord. In the pages of *Intimacy With God* (IWG), we get the very rare opportunity and privilege to peek with complete transparency into what essentially amounts to a thoughtfully written journal of a FULLY devoted follower of Jesus Christ. We are granted access to Scriptural insights, personal prayers penned in the margins of Ben's Bible, and very personal reflections on multiple facets of Christian living and worldview. [Read more](#)

### **Missions Update**

Mission teams may need new resources to serve effectively. This church mission letter shares resources to grow your mission team for 2012. [Read more](#)

### **Pastoral Care Encouragement**

The Power of Self Sacrifice - A friendship is a mutual relationship requiring give and take from both parties. If one person is doing all the taking and the other all the giving, it is hardly a healthy relationship. However, in the making of healthy relationships, one person usually has to be the giver long before the other yields to the power of the giver's personal sacrifice. That is how it is regarding God's relationship with each of us. [Read more](#)

### **Faith Community Nursing Resources**

Elim Care Faith Community Nurse Program works together with congregations in a collaborative effort to integrate the Word of God and Christian principles into areas of health and wellness in the local church and the community. The faith community nurse helps individuals of all ages with their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. [Read more](#)

### **Miscellaneous**

Recent Ordination serves were held for:

Dave Abernethy, Oct. 16, lead pastor of Mound EFC

Dan Werthman, Oct. 16, recently moved from Lakewood EFC, Baxter to Jacksonville, FL

Ryan Gerbrandt, Nov. 12, lead pastor of Living Hope EFC in Edgerton.

Ministry license granted to Mike Howard, senior high pastor at Constance EFC in Andover.

Our condolences to the family of T. Wayne Larson. Pastor Larson, pastor of Bethany EFC in Houston, MN, died suddenly on Thursday, Nov. 17. Wayne was a faithful pastor of 18 years at Bethany. You likely saw him, and often his wife, Ruth, at district conferences from time to time. He will be greatly missed at Bethany, and, as the eldest pastor in our district, he reminds us of the passing of the generations and the need to grasp the baton he has handed us.



*May Christ be your  
victory and confidence  
in this Advent season  
and in the new year.*

*—Your North Central  
District Team*

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