



February 2012

Events

Mini-Missions Summit - March 24, Fertile, MN

Join us for a half-day training event to increase your missions awareness and maximize your mission vision and budget. [Read more](#)

Mission Team Summit for the Local Church, March 31, Blackduck, MN

Topics to be covered: What is the purpose of a mission team? Qualifications and training needed? How to organize? [Read more](#).

NCD Annual Conference - April 16-17, 2012, Andover, MN

Successful, God-honoring, productive ministry in the church is never just a matter of mastering the requisite body of information and possessing the right set of skills. Ministry in the local church, whatever it is, is always shaped by the condition of your heart. What are the issues that are at the heart of ministry struggle and failure? What are the protections that need to be built into the life of everyone who is active in ministry of any kind? How do we assure that the message of the transforming grace of Jesus Christ is not only operating in the lives of those being ministered to, but in the one doing ministry as well? Join us at our annual district conference to hear Paul David Tripp address the topic of Dangerous Calling: The Unique Temptations of Ministry in the Local Church. [Read more](#).

NCD Youth Blitz Conference - April 27-29, Rochester, MN

The purpose of District Blitz is to provide a conference that challenges students to love God, love one another, and love the lost. This year's conference theme is: Connected. Speaker: Nick Hall. Worship leaders: Finding Favor. [Read more](#)

BUMP - July 14-22 - Twin Cities locations

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 ([read history of BUMP](#)). Each summer students minister with an urban church as they experience 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 - *Eyes on the Dashboard*

Each of us as pastors and church leaders has been clearly called by God to shepherd, lead, and grow His sheep. How do we know if we are being effective faithful shepherds? How do we know that we are being intentional and staying on track and on His task? How do we guard against just *doing church* instead of *being His church on His mission*? These are questions that all of us as pastors struggle with, which is a good thing. [Read more](#)

Biblical Conflict Resolution

Are you interested in becoming better equipped to assist others to bring resolution to conflict in a manner that is more biblical and reflective of the gospel? If you not yet taken Foundational Skills Training in Conflict Coaching and Mediation, I invite you to join me personally in Detroit Lakes, MN, on March 8-10 (Conflict Coaching and Mediation). Click [here](#) for more information and the opportunity to register with Peacemaker Ministries for either of these events. (The training will also be offered in Duluth on April 26-28, though I will not be a part of the training team in that location.) If you have already taken Conflict Coaching and Mediation, I strongly encourage you to join the NCD Team as we host the advanced training, Reconciling Church Conflict, at Cross-Point Church in Bloomington on June 21-23. Information on this training can be found [here](#) and [here](#). --Tom Mouw

Missions Update

This month's article focuses on the obstacles that American evangelical churches need to overcome to effectively craft a mission strategy. It is important for all mission leaders to ponder these ideas for their church. [Read more](#)

Pastoral Care

Allow me to define idolatry as *any false hope that I have invited or allowed to position itself between me and the true and living hope I have in Jesus Christ, my Lord.* [Read more](#)

EFCA Theology Conference Recap

Last month the annual midwinter EFCA Theology Conference was held on the campus of TEDS. The theme was "Understanding the Complementarian Position," that is, the view that God gives to men primary responsibility and leadership in the home and in the church. The conference explored Biblical teaching on men and women and leadership in the home and church, and practical aspects of how the complementarian position is to be applied in the church. Speakers Bob Yarbrough and Don Carson gave lectures on contemporary culture, hermeneutics, shepherding in the church, and specific Biblical passages. Panel-discussion participants, both male and female, gave glimpses into what complementarian church culture can look like. Panelists, including pastors, pastors' wives, church staff members, and lay persons, spoke of how their own local churches are implementing a commitment to healthy complementarian culture. The entire conference emphasized that a responsible complementarian posture does not simply determine a line demarcating what women may and may not do. Rather, healthy complementarian culture is careful to ensure that women in the church are truly flourishing in line with the wisdom, abilities, gifts, and leadership that they have to offer. Recordings of the conference presentations are posted on the [EFCA website](#).

Preaching for the rest of us - March 4-5, Minneapolis (Hope Cmty Church, next door to NCD Office)

"How to be a Faithful Preacher in a Rockstar Word" It's hard not to compare yourself to others. It's all too easy to stack yourself up against the renowned communicators of today. It can be difficult when your flock seems more apt to follow the pastors they listen to online versus those in their church. [Read more.](#)

Faith at Home Conference - Feb 25, Burnsville, MN (location change)

In the past, faith was a central part of our life at home, yet the reality for many people today is that faith is no more than one-hour, at church focused Christianity. As a result many young adults are walking away from the faith because they believe Christianity is hypocritical. This conference will provide the Biblical and statistical foundation for why the home must be the primary place where faith is nurtured and tools to become a faith at home household, and guidance to encourage faith at home focused church. Listen to Mark Holmen, author, speaker on the family for Willow Creek Ministries, and founder of Faith At Home Ministries. Location has been changed to [Faith Covenant in Burnsville, MN](#) Cost: \$25/person. [Register online](#)

Immigrant Hope seminar - May 14-18, Chicago, IL

Immigrant Hope and World Relief have joined forces to offer a class for people interested in serving and reaching the vulnerable immigrants in our community. Immigrant Pathway Institute is a week-long, 40-hour survey of immigration law. It is an introductory class designed to give attendees a solid foundation for understanding the immigration system and the experiences of the immigrants they know and serve. It can also serve as the first step toward earning the government certification necessary for workers at non-profits (like churches) to offer advice on immigration legal issues. The class will be held at Trinity International University (Deerfield, IL), May 14-18, 2012. No prior experience or training is required to attend. Immigrant Hope is an EFCA ministry that equips churches to offer reliable, affordable, and ethical legal advice to immigrants, paired with the gospel message. Our goal is to see churches across America offering immigrants: the Hope of the gospel, Help finding a pathway to legal residency, and a home in a church that cares for their needs. [Read more](#)

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