



central conference of the evangelical covenant church

June 2015

From the Superintendent: PENTECOST



"For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off" (Acts 2:39)

The apostle Peter spoke these words on the first Christian Pentecost. He was revealing the significance of the coming of the promised Holy Spirit. He also reminded them that the prophet Joel had prophesied this event many years before it happened: "In the last days, God says; 'I will pour out my spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my spirit even on my servants--men and women alike--and they will prophesy.'" (Acts 2: 17-18)

As we Christians from around the world unite to celebrate the birth of the Church we should remember these words of encouragement and the fulfillment of a divine promise made to us by Jesus. Remembering Pentecost should direct us back to the source of power, to the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life.

I truly believe that the Church, as well as, the world needs a new Pentecost. The world is on edge because of anxieties, suspicions, anger and hatred. Nations are putting their trust in the development of more diabolical weapons of destruction. Science continues to unveil new possibilities for human progress but the spiritual controls and influences needed to guide them to the right goals are sorely lacking. Antichristian forces are more organized and increasing at a rapid pace.

Many of our churches are becoming full of nominal or lukewarm members whose real god is their own success and happiness. Being spiritual but not religious (SBNR) is becoming the rule of the day. Religiosity has become popular but much of it caters only to the self-centered desire of unregenerate human nature. People are willing to accept Christ only if He accepts their life styles, on their conditions but refuse to submit to the complete reconstruction of the life He demands.

The disunity within Christendom has diluted our witness to the secular world and to non-christians. If we are to fulfill our mission in the world we must once more face the world as a Spirit-empowered, united, and evangelizing fellowship. A spiritual rebirth is the basic prerequisite for the unity of the church, as well as, for the vitalization of the church's witness. It is the renewal of hearts and minds by the Spirit of Him who says, "Behold I make all things new." Remember the promise still stands: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." The Lord of the church is ready to manifest His living presence, to change lives, to bind the hearts of believers together in love, and to empower them to effective witness. In sincere penitence and confident faith let all who call upon the name of Christ unite in praying: "Come, Holy Spirit!"

By: Rev. Jerome Nelson



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A Weekend of God's Grace and Blessings



On Sunday, May 24th, 2015, Rev. Brian Burton was installed as Senior Pastor in part time capacity at St. Paul Evangelical Covenant Church in Franklin Park, IL.

He is also an ordained Evangelical Free Church pastor who is currently transferring his ordination to the Evangelical Covenant Church. Pastor Brian was surrounded by his fiancée, Elizabeth Bell, family and friends for this celebration. Rev. Jerome Nelson, Superintendent of the Central Conference performed the installation. And Pastor Brian's mentor and friend Rev. Richard Carlson, Sr. Pastor of the Evangelical Free Church in Rock Springs, Wyoming and Superintendent of the Intermountain West District gave the morning message. It was a joyful event.

Pastor Brian stated "That he felt God's hand all over his life and especially this weekend." He was thanking God for all His blessings and the discernment of the search committee to call him. He had memorialized his father just the day before but was praising God for his father's life and the four souls that had accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior at the memorial service. After the installation service and cake reception Pastor Brian and Elizabeth Bell hurriedly left to go and prepare for the wedding. This was also their wedding day and that ceremony and celebration took place later that afternoon in another location.

Please pray for Pastor Brian Burton and wife Elizabeth, his family and the church.

By: Joanne Nelson



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Central Conference Church Planters Gathering



The conference church planters gathered in Batavia ahead of the Annual Meeting for a morning of prayer, peer-mentoring, and a workshop on discipleship and leadership development.

The workshop was led by Pastor Bum Kim of Outpour Covenant Church in St. Louis and focused on the priority in church planting of intentionally making disciples and raising up new leaders. The church planters were joined by some men and women from around the conference who are discerning a call to planting.

By: Rev. David Swanson

Serving Globally

If your church is supporting missionaries, supporting ministries in communities or villages in other countries or a group from your church takes a short-term mission trip from time to time; your church is Serving Globally! If your church is involved in any of these opportunities, send me the name of your church and where you are serving so we can add you to the Conference website. If your church wants to serve globally and don't know how or where to start, feel free to contact the Conference office, Denomination or one of the churches on our website: <http://www.centralconf.org/resources/>.

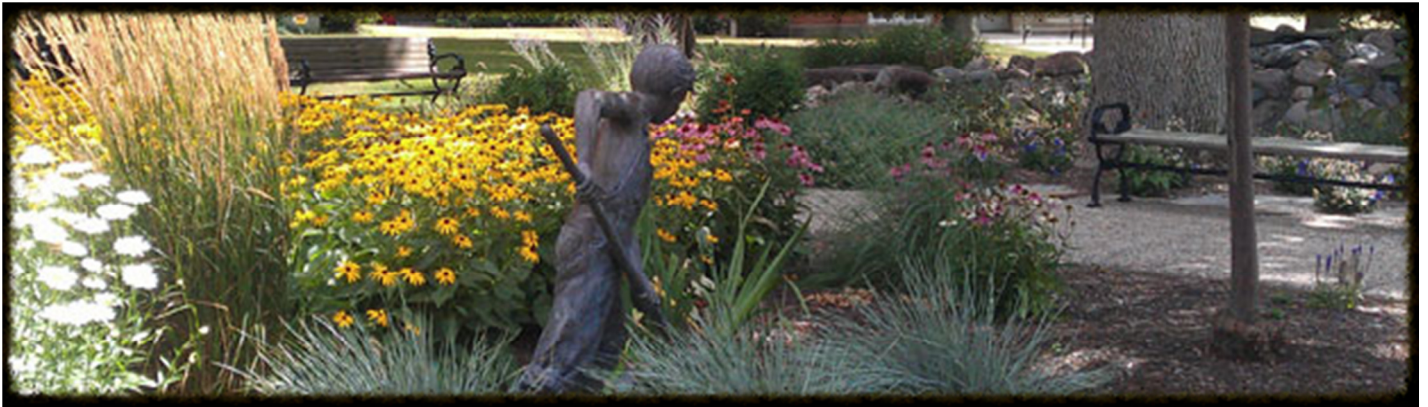
By: Rev. Debbie Griffith Samuels



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Covenant Children's Ministry



The Covenant Children's Ministry Board, formerly the Covenant Children's Home and Family Services, is receiving applications from post high school college or trade school students who qualify. Guideline and application forms can be downloaded from the Covenant Children's Ministry website www.ccmprinceton.org.

Deadline for receipt of applications in our Princeton, IL office is June 10th.

By: Paul Bengtson
