

# The North Michigan Herald

September 26, 2014



## Mark Your Calendar

**10.3**

International Potluck

**10.3 - 10.4**

SAU Ignite

**10.5**

Mecosta Anniversary Service

**11.17 - 11.24**

Operation Christmas Child  
Collection

To share your stories and photos:  
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"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

## God Inspired Passion

By Superintendent Tom Doherty

WOW, a lot has happened since Annual conference this April.... My father died just before Annual Conference, and several good friends in the ministry died in the months following Annual Conference. I have been blessed to begin attending our conference churches for meetings on Sunday. It has been a pleasure to connect with each church and their pastors. Seeing what God is doing has been an uplifting experience for my wife and myself.

It is the conference leaderships' desire to help every church become vitalized, and by that we mean become more vital in Kingdom work. To help you see lives changed, communities impacted and redemption and transformation becoming the norm in every church.

God is granting us a growing diversity in the North Michigan Conference, and I love it. In one weekend I had the privilege to preach in a Burundi revival service, experiencing for the first time preaching through a translator and seeing the excitement and love our brothers and sisters have for the Lord. Many of these people came out of wars and refugee camps in which they literally walked by people

Continued on page 2...

### Article Continued ...

who were lying on the ground dead. They have experienced redemption in a way many of us will never know. To see their Choirs from all over the US singing and praising the Lord with dance was wonderful. The next day I was 6 hours north visiting and preaching in our Sault Ste. Marie church. It was great to be there with Pastor Dan and Holly and our church family. They were starting their VBS program that night and they were all very excited about that. The church was decked out and looked great. It was nice to meet some of the new young families who are attending there.

I have also been blessed to work with our partners in Southern and East Michigan conferences. Superintendent Paul Castle and Superintendent Bruce Rhodes are Spirit filled men who love Jesus. Together with them we are having our first Tri-conference event in many years on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Spring Arbor. Please be watching and respond to the email and brochure that is out on this event.

God wants us to grow, there is no other real purpose as far as I can see. To Grow toward Him and toward others. To grow in His power and love and to grow in numbers. Numbers are important because they are people. It is the conference leaderships desire to see every church grow.

I personally would like to see us have at least 18 more churches or church campuses than we have now and to see our overall attendance number double in the next 10 years. This may seem like a big goal but if each church becomes more vital it will grow and its vision for growth outside of its current location will become a part of the vision too.

Is God stirring up a passion in you and your church? If so you have the beginnings of what it will take to grow and transform who you are and everyone around you. We don't need a great plan first, we need God inspired passion. I know I have said this before, but Bruce Bennett, who has started a church planting movement in Africa and Asia said something like this, I am looking for people who are going to start a church whether I help them or not, and I get behind them and do all I can to help them succeed.

That is what I am doing. I am looking for people who are going to see their church vital again no matter what and I want to get behind them and help them succeed. That might mean a church of 40 becomes a church of 100. It might mean a church of 100 plants another campus or an independent work. It might mean that I find people who are not yet Free Methodist and connect for Kingdom growth in the name of Jesus.

Is God calling you? Does God have a great plan for your church? I think the answer is yes! But what I think doesn't matter until you believe, until you have the vision, until you are filled with the passion of the Spirit of God!

Lord I am looking for those partners in Kingdom work who you have impassioned with vision and belief to build your Kingdom no matter what. Help me to see these dear people. Help me to know how to help them succeed in what you are calling US to do. Help me always to be a helper and not a hindrance. Dear Lord Let Your Spirit blow across Your conference and bring the Joy of new life everywhere.

As always I am blessed to be working as your Superintendent, thank you for this great opportunity.

Blessings,  
Superintendent Tom Doherty

"Rejoice in the Lord  
always. Again I say,  
rejoice!"

Rom 8:28..... "And we know  
that all things work together for  
good to those who love God, to  
those who are the called  
according to His purpose."

## "The Village" Mecosta Free Methodist Church

You're invited! To Our 1 Year Anniversary & Building Dedication Service on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 2-3 pm.

Located: 101 East Main Street, Mecosta

Pastor Dar H. Howard  
Cell# 989-560-8304  
darhoward@cmsinter.net



### October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Spring Arbor University

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ignite Conference put on by the Michigan Conferences of the Free Methodist Church! Please pray for the success of this event and the safe travel for those who are attending.

For more information visit our website:  
<http://www.fmcnorthmich.org/>

## International Potluck Dinner

Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lakeview  
Free Methodist Church

Guest Speakers: Ken and Linda  
6:30-8:00 PM

Also Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am

Ken and Linda serve in leadership development ministries. Free Methodist work in the area where Ken and Linda serve has expanded to three new areas. There are, however, tens of thousands of towns and villages throughout this region without any gospel witness. A new strategy is being developed that will help national believers in the region catch a vision for planting "house churches" in the most underserved areas. All are welcome to join us to hear about their living.

*"Go into all the world  
and preach the gospel  
to every creature.  
He who believes  
and is baptized  
will be saved,  
but he who does not believe  
will be condemned."  
(Mark 16:15, 16)*



[www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)



Mark and Lena were guest speakers at Family Camp 2014. They spoke every morning about the work they do as Creative Access Workers. This is the Card they gave to us after our camp time ended. We very much enjoyed having them at Family camp.

hers } Sisters at N. Michigan,

Can't thank you enough for the kind things you do, sure want you to know I'm grateful for you!

Thank you for having us at Stanton Camp. We enjoyed our stay, everyone was so kind and friendly. Hope to see you again!  
Love  
Mark & Lena

## Sault Ste. Marie

Great things have been happening at our conference's northernmost church, Sault Ste. Marie. Recently, new families have begun attending, a new member has been received, and three were baptized.

This year the church had a booth at the city's downtown sidewalk sales. We sold bottled water, and the proceeds went International Child Care Ministries' water filter program in Haiti. Several who purchased donated their change to the project; and over \$170 was raised. In addition, families with children were invited to Vacation Bible School.

Entering the church for Sonquest Rainforest for Vacation Bible School, there was no question that you were entering the rainforest. Getting into the fellowship hall meant going through a shower curtain waterfall. VBS opened each night with a group song time after which children got into their groups and rotated to Bible Story, crafts, games, and snacks. Afterward everyone gathered in the sanctuary for more singing. The kids' offering went toward purchasing "Vacation Bible School" overseas. On next to the last night, co-CE director, Charlie Goff, challenged the children, saying he'd match the weight of coins brought in with pennies. The children responded, and Charlie had to match \$12.50 in pennies. The final offering was \$94, mostly in coin.

Throughout the last half of the summer, we collected school supplies for our children. Each of the church's 20+ children received a generous bag of school supplies.

Our church food pantry, which is only open Wednesday evenings, has been serving many more families than in the past. January through July the pantry served a total of 546 individuals (returnees are recounted). The limit is one visit per family per month. In July alone we served 51 households. The church also sent food to the Kinross Alternative School for Friday Food Bags and have plans to continue this again this year.

Grandparent's Day provided a meaningful ending to a busy summer. Many grandparents and grandchildren were in attendance. Following the morning worship service, we entered the fellowship hall where decorations brought back many wonderful memories! Various church members had lent their grandparent and multi-generational pictures to our co-CE director Chris Groh, and she had created collages framing the outside walls of the fellowship hall. Also, framed photos lined the center of the black and white decorated tables.

Between the photos were table tents with Scriptural and other sayings on one side and quotes by church children about why they love their grandparents on the other side. Before eating, various attendees shared memories of their grandparents. Finally, we all enjoyed lunch - having been asked to bring dishes that remind us of our grandparents. In the potluck line grandparent's got to go first ... of course! It was a Grandparent's Day to remember!

Holly Waite

"Under The Big Top with Jesus" was this year's theme for Vacation Bible School, at Evergreen Free Methodist Church. An average of 80 participants, for the four night VBS, collected over \$400.00. Each year Evergreen VBSers collect money to help local needy families by providing "Christmas" for them.

The final night's event included a family friendly carnival. There were an estimated 190 participants and helpers to run the 12 carnival games, popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy event.

The driving force behind this outreach was new commitments to Jesus. We saw 79 new decisions to follow Jesus. We pray that these commitments will be lifelong commitments.

To the right is a picture of the last night.

## Under the Big Top



**79 new decisions to follow Christ! Praise God!**

The North Michigan Herald is published 12 times per year under the authority of the NMC Free Methodist Church.

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