

Midwest Covenant Conference West "Hub 'Cap," Volume 7/No. 5, August, 2011:  
*A Regular Contact with Ministry Staff and other Key Church Leaders in the Western Hub*

Hello Covenant Mission Friends –

Transitions... My third and last daughter got married in June, a wonderful family celebration but an epochal time of change. Transitions: life is full of them. If it's not changes in our families it's changes in our vocational circumstances, our bodies, our expectations, our habits, our schedules, our paradigms, our technologies, our locations, etc. You name it and it changes. Except for one thing -- our immutable, loving God, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness, the same yesterday, today and forever. How I need a God like that, one of Whom, when I am finally diligent to seek Him I find has been pursuing me all along. I am glad I have that to count on, to place faith in, faith in the One of Whom it is said there is no shadow of turning. Praise God.

Thank you for your prayer for my family, and thank you for your prayer for our shared conference ministry as we go through another epochal transition (see article that follows). Your prayers are precious to us here in conference ministry. I also continue to put together a prayer group of 1000 persons willing to pray regularly for church planting in the Midwest Conference, and currently have nearly 300 persons participating. If you are not receiving the email that I call 1KCP3 (One Thousand [1K] Church Planting Prayer Partners [CP3]), and would be interested in praying in this manner for this important missional concern, feel free to contact Reva or me with your email address and your church name, and we'll get you set up.

And hey, before I get on with updates and prayer needs, may I ask a logistical favor? Communication is only ever as good as its intentionality, so I need your help. Pastors, can you kindly keep Reva (in our Omaha office) and me informed of chair changes and provide us with email address updates, maybe even check in with your chair to see that they are getting this? Chairs, when you pass the gavel, could you do the same? I always use the most up-to-date list of chairs I have, but your help when the change is made would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

***Superintendent Carlson Succeeded by Superintendent Swanson-Draheim***



On July 31 and August 1, respectively, long-time superintendent Ken Carlson retired and newly elected superintendent Tammy Swanson-Draheim began her term of office. We are grateful for Ken's years of service, and now warmly welcome Tammy to conference leadership. Watch for information on a 'listening tour' we will be coordinating in the next several months that will bring the conference superintendent staff to your area.

**Next Meeting of Front Range Church Planting Committee September 15, 7pm, at Centennial Covenant in Littleton – Come and Meet the New Superintendent!**

I am excited for an opportunity you will have to meet our new superintendent at the next meeting of the Front Range Church Planting Committee, to be held at the time, location and date stated above. Tammy will be able to be with us that evening, and, whether you have met her before or not, it'll be a good time to welcome her to her new role here among us and hear from her. Of course, there is also church planting ministry to transact, so we will hear from Brian Sky as to how things are going in Fort Collins and then from our newest church planter designee Ryan Ashley, who will be planting on the north side of Denver starting this fall. We have also found these 3X/year meetings to be simply a good connecting point with each other's ministries. A pastor and lay leader are urged to participate from each church, and we are the richer when that can happen. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Two Western Hub Churches received into Covenant Membership in June**

Two Colorado churches were among a dozen received into full membership at the recent Covenant Annual Meeting in Estes Park -- Crossroads Covenant of Greeley, a church plant of several years ago, and Logos Central Chapel of Denver, by way of affiliation. The Greeley congregation commenced in 2007 under the leadership of Pastor Arnie Guin and the parenting energy of Crossroads Covenant of Loveland; its current leader is interim Pastor Brent Bromstrup. Logos is a church plant about a decade old, being served by its second pastor, Matthew Kim, and the church is the first in the Midwest Conference of Asian American ethnicity. We welcome these two churches into full membership, though they have been a part of our family for some time.

**ECC/Fort Collins Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this Month**

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Fort Collins will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary August 27-28 with an evangelism and outreach workshop Saturday morning the 27<sup>th</sup> and a banquet and concert at 6:30pm the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>, featuring professional saxophonist and guitarist Ron Brown and Caleb Quaye. All are welcome, but those interested in the workshop (and optional lunch to follow) are asked to register their attendance. Call the church or visit its website for further information -- 970-223-6507 or <http://www.fccov.org>.

**Covenant Village of Colorado to Celebrate Anniversaries in Late August**

Covenant Village of Colorado will be celebrating two anniversaries with special events August 21-27-- the campus's 15<sup>th</sup> and Covenant Retirement Communities' 125<sup>th</sup>! A couple events will be open to the public on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. They will host David Dwight, President of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, for a punch reception (2:30 p.m.) and a special presentation (3 p.m.) on the Covenant's special spirit that opened the door to the founding of the Home of Mercy in Chicago 125 years ago. Then at 6:30, CRC President Rick Fisk will speak on "Aging in Grace... The growth of Covenant Retirement Communities 1886 to 2011." It will also include a celebration of the Colorado campus's fifteen years.

**Family Camp and Women's Retreat Coming Up Soon at Covenant Heights!**

One of the highlights of the year for Gail and me is attending family camp at Covenant Heights. This year the camp has scheduled two of them – one that took place over the weekend of the Fourth of July and another that will be over Labor Day weekend, September 2-5. If you have never been to one, it is a great and very affordable family experience with programming for all ages, inspiring chapels, wonderful meals, and a view you'll daydream about nestled in between Longs Peak and the Twin Sisters. We bring up our camper and enjoy it that way. Please let your churches know about it. Additionally, the annual women's retreat will follow soon thereafter the weekend of September 16-18. Find information on the camp's website, <http://www.covenantheights.org/>

**Pastors – Planning on Attending a Fall Retreat?**

Ministry staff in all our conference churches are going to have two retreat options from which to choose again this autumn. One retreat will be held in the eastern part of our region at the incredibly lovely St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska; the dates are October 3-5, and the speaker will be beloved North Park Seminary professor and author Dr. Klyne Snodgrass. The western retreat will be held later that month at Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, October 17-19, and feature author and postmodern thinker Dr. Kyle Strobel, son of author Lee

Strobel and member of our Castle Rock church. Midwest Conference ministers and their spouses and guests are welcome to attend either or both of these retreats. Watch for registration information coming soon.

### **Have a Missions Team? Area Teams meet to Network November 12**

Reps from the missions teams of a number of our churches have met a couple times this past school year to connect, network and consider potential synergies, with eagerness expressed to meet together a couple times each year. Tom Melander of Arvada Covenant and I will coordinate the gatherings and all are welcome whether you made previous meetings or not, perhaps especially if you were not able to attend yet. Our next gathering will be on November 12, location yet to be determined, meeting from 9:30am to 1pm with lunch provided; all we ask is that you contact one of us and let us know how many to expect from your church, rsvp'ing by November 10. Watch for information on the location and join us!

### **Pastoral Leadership Coaching Available through Covenant**

As part of the Covenant's revitalization initiative, we are able to provide regular leadership coaching for pastors across the Covenant at a deeply discounted rate, through Covenant-trained coaches. A generous donor has made this possible. This is quite a breakthrough for our little denomination, one of which we hope and pray many churches and pastors will avail themselves. The coaching consists of weekly one-hour telephone sessions and semi-annual workshop events, covering an incredible amount of helpful material in the field, things one does not tend to learn in seminary. Pastors and lay leaders seeking more information are urged to check out details on Covenant revitalization director John Wenrich's blog; from John, "Simply visit my blog and click on Coaching Startup Kit ([www.covchurch.org/blogs/vitality/coaching-resources](http://www.covchurch.org/blogs/vitality/coaching-resources)). You'll find directions for getting started, media to share with a church leadership team, enrollment form, price sheet, and an overview of the content." Check it out! Grant money through the Covenant's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program or through the Midwest Conference may be available.

### **2012 Conference Annual Meeting Here in the Western Hub at Fort Collins/ECC**

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Fort Collins has volunteered to host next year's conference annual meeting, so it will not require the travel it often has when the event has been held in other parts of our vast region. It would be great for all your churches to anticipate this and be sure to have delegates present. The dates are April 27-28, with Women Ministries and ministers' meetings on Friday morning into the afternoon, and then the delegate meeting with reps from churches across our region beginning by mid-afternoon Friday and concluding by approximately noon Saturday. Get it on your church calendars, and our thanks to Ft. Collins ECC for their hospitality.

### **Ministry of Spiritual Direction Available in Western Hub –Two More Directors Recently Trained**

Two persons have completed spiritual direction training this summer at North Park Seminary's Center for Spiritual Direction, and along with others in our area are open to ministry among both clergy and lay leaders in our Covenant churches. New directors include Pastor Mike Brown of Christ Community Covenant in Arvada and layperson Rebecca Hinebaugh from Living Hope Covenant in Colorado Springs – congratulations to them both. They join a cadre of available Covenant directors including pastors David Dillon and Tom Ashbrook of Centennial Covenant in Littleton, Tom Glossi of ECC in Fort Collins, Katie Martinez of Crossroads/Loveland, Tim Musselwhite of Lifespring/Loveland, Monty Newton of Heritage/Arvada and myself, and lay leaders Dana Mattson of Longmont and Meg Watson of Loveland/Lifespring. Contact any of us if you have interest. The ministry of spiritual direction is a classical Christian discipline whereby a 'listener' seeks to guide a person's intentions and heart toward God's deeper presence in his or her life. Several of these persons have committed to offer direction free of charge.

### **Don't Forget 'First Thursday Prayer' – Next Upcoming: August 4, Living Hope Covenant/Colorado Springs**

All pastoral staff persons and their guests are invited each first Thursday of the month, 10:30-11:30am, for First Thursday Prayer. August 4th will find us meeting at Living Hope Covenant in Colorado Springs, Pastor Greg Ralston hosting. FTP has been a good prayer and connecting point and all are welcome even if participation must be sporadic. Those who have time often grab a nearby quick lunch together after the prayer meeting. We are looking for a location for September and October, so let me know if your church can host.

### **Additional Prayer Notes -- Please Pray for...**

- Pray for Pastor Roy Matthewson, interim pastor at Faith Covenant in Colorado Springs, whose father passed in mid-July; peace to Peter Matthewson's memory and peace to Roy's family.
- Pray for Pastor David and Debbie Williams of Abyssinian/Ft. Collins: Dave and Debbie have been accepted to pursue a two-year short-term mission with the ECC, which, Lord willing, they will undertake this fall; pray for the provision of an interim pastor
- Pray for three of our western hub churches continuing lead pastor search processes: Faith Covenant of Colorado Springs CO, Crossroads Covenant of Greeley CO, and Lund Covenant of Dresden KS
- Praise God for the successful completion of search processes at Arvada Covenant and Colorado Ridge Covenant of Westminster – Arvada Cov recently called Josh Danielson as Director of Young Adult Ministries and Contemporary Worship, and Colorado Ridge called Chris Chrismond as Worship Pastor and Nancy Ruth Bailey as Children's Director; welcome to these three new ministry friends!

### **Upcoming 'Covenant Dates' to Remember...**

- **August 4**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, Faith Covenant/Colorado Springs (see above)
- **September 1**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **September 15**, Front Range Church Planting Committee, 7pm, Centennial Covenant in Littleton (see above)
- **October 3-5 and 17-19**, Fall Pastors Retreats in Schuyler NE and Colorado Springs (see above)
- **October 6**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **November 3**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **November 12**, Missions Teams Networking Meeting, 9:30-1pm, location to be announced (see above)

Finally, here is an article I received recently from Pastor Monty Newton of Arvada/Heritage. I'm not sure which category of leader Monty placed himself in, but either way, it's a good article. Thanks, Monty!

#### *14 Things Older Leaders Should Know About Younger Ones* by Brad Lomenick

I love leaders. Young leaders. Older leaders. Leaders in the Church. Leaders in business. Next Generation leaders. Seasoned leaders. In all sectors. And I'm incredibly hopeful regarding this next wave of Church leaders. Incredibly excited and hopeful and expectant. Expectant that they are going to take the reins and move things forward like no other generation before them. And I'm incredibly grateful for the older leaders who have come before us, paving the way. As with all generations, there are things that we can learn from each other. Younger pastors and leaders need to learn from those who've come before them. And older pastors and leaders need to embrace, understand, and release the next generation since they will be taking over and leading over the next 30-40 years. So whether you are a younger 20-something leader or a seasoned 60-something leader, here are some points I hope will help you understand each other, work together, and ultimately, lead more effectively. Younger leaders in general seem to all exhibit these qualities and characteristics as a generation:

1. **Passion for God.** Everyone seems to think we've lost a generation of Christ followers in our country, but after seeing the 23,000 college students gathered at Passion a few weeks ago and the 20,000 + who gather at Urbana every other year and the 20,000 who were just in Kansas City for the IHOP One Thing gathering and the thousands and thousands attending Hillsong United events and Jesus Culture gatherings and, of course, the 25,000 leaders who gather at Catalyst events- this instills confidence that the next generation of leaders love Jesus and are passionate about serving Him and making Him known for their generation.
2. **Willing to work together.** Twenty- and thirty-somethings are more willing to collaborate than any other generation before. They trust each other. Really. And see collaboration as the starting point, not some grandiose vision of teamwork that is far off in the distance. Collaboration is now the norm. It's hard to believe, but it's true- young leaders don't care who gets the credit. For the next generation- it's way less about WHO and way more about WHAT.

3. Generosity and sharing are the new currencies of our culture. In business, relationships, networks, platforms, technology, distribution, content delivery, etc., open source is the new standard. This new wave of leaders has tools/resources such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, Instagram, and tons more social media tools that make influencing much more readily available and easier than ever before. The currency with all of these social mediums is being generous. Sharing your ideas, sharing links, sharing friends, sharing networks. This is a complete paradigm shift from 30-40 years ago.
4. Understand the holistic responsibility of influence. Willing to connect all of life together- faith, compassion, charity, work, career, church, family, friends. It's all connected. There is way less compartmentalizing of life among the next generation of leaders.
5. Authenticity and humility wins. Trust is incredibly important. Leaders won't have followers going forward unless they trust them and see that they are authentic and real. Authenticity is not only important to the next generation; it's a requirement. The next generation wants to follow leaders who are willing to admit that they don't know it all.
6. Not willing to wait. Young leaders are ambitious and passionate about making a difference now. Not willing to wait their turn. They want to influence now. Evidence of this is the explosion of church planters in the last 4-5 years. Reality is you are never really "ready" for anything. Some say that you should wait until you are "mature" enough to pursue certain things in life. But we're never really ready, are we?
7. See social justice as the norm. Leaders who care about the poor and lean into causes and see the social gospel as a key ingredient to following Christ are no longer seen as the exception. Young leaders see taking care of the poor and sharing the Gospel as BOTH crucial to the advancement of the Church and of God's Kingdom. Twenty-somethings, I believe, are and will continue to become more balanced in their pursuit of both. They don't have to be one or the other.
8. Seeking wisdom and mentors. Overall, I sense that 20- and 30-somethings are highly willing to be mentored and are hungry for wisdom from older leaders around them. Millennials and Gen Y are assumed to have it all figured out because they have so many tools and technology at their fingertips. But from what I've experienced, they still are seeking wisdom just as much as any other generation before them.
9. At the end of the day, a humble and authentic leader will "win" in the long run. Many times in our 20s and in our culture, being "loud," aggressive, "win now," arrogant, and transactional will get you big results fast. But over the long term, people would much rather partner and work with leaders who are humble, authentic, relational, win/win focused, and not always thinking about themselves. Being real and being generous wins.
10. WHO you are working with is just as important as WHAT you are working on. One of the major things I'm learning in my 30s: The journey is much more fun when you are working and locking arms with those you love being around. This is incredibly important to the next generation of leaders. It's all about community and a sense of family.
11. We need to understand each other. Pursue us- we're not in it for the long haul anymore. Forty and under leaders in general are more about projects than they are about careers. More about movements instead of organizations. So if you want to keep us around in your organization, you're going to have to pursue us. Show us you are approachable and connected to where we are in life. Understand us- make an effort to be in touch with our generation. Listen to us. It doesn't mean you have to dress like us, but when you make a concerted effort to be in touch with what we are in touch with, it makes a huge difference. We're motivated by making a difference and being part of something bigger than ourselves.
12. Every leader still wants to be developed. Train, inspire, and connect us. Train us- once you've got us on your team, pour into us. We may not show it, but we truly desire to be mentored, and we need wise sages and mentors who will train us up. Constantly look for ways to pass on your insights to us. We are hungry for mentors and are open to you passing on your wisdom. And not just your successes and the things you've done right- we want to know what you've failed at, both to make you "human" as well to learn from your experience so we won't make the same mistakes.
13. Kick us out. Release us- literally, kick us out. Not only give us permission to leave, but actually encourage us to leave and pursue other things. Once it's time for us to move on, we might need your encouragement to pursue what God might be stirring up in us. Especially during the last couple of years, when it was much easier to just hang on than to really let go and chase after our dreams. We're not leaving because we're "giving up" on your

vision; we just want to make ours a reality. Inspire us- cast vision for us. Motivate us through painting a picture of where we are headed. Lead us. But don't manage us. Managing to you means something completely different than it does to us. You were schooled on the management theories of the '80s. Major generation gap here. And a source of lots of tension that is difficult to manage. Connect us- we are drawn towards community and relational networks through which we can make an impact and affect change. Community is incredibly important to us, in any context. We want to climb the hill together, not by ourselves.

(Brad Lomenick is Executive Director and key Visionary of Catalyst, a movement of young leaders. More at [www.bradlomenick.com](http://www.bradlomenick.com))

And as always, please feel free to be in touch with me at any time regarding how our Midwest Conference ministry may be of service to you. Until next time, God be over you continually.

Gratefully Serving with You,



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Associate Superintendent, Western Hub Coordinator and Director of Church Planting

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