



December 2009

SAVE THE DATES!



The Midwest Conference annual meeting, hosted by the Evangelical Covenant Church of Lindsborg, KS, will be held April 23-24, 2010, beginning with a Friday evening worship celebration and business meeting on Saturday. Well-known performer throughout the Covenant and North America, Bob Stromberg, (www.bobstromberg.com) will share his unique and uplifting style of storytelling Friday evening in Lindsborg at the local high school. Women Ministries will begin Thursday, April 22, (view their schedule, www.heartsintouch.org) and the Ministerial Association will gather Friday morning, April 23.

Full-time Pastors new to MWC since Nov. 2009:

- Tom Anderson, Interim Pastor, Harvest Ridge Covenant, Shawnee, KS
- Paul Lessard, Pastor, Castle Oaks Covenant, Castle Rock, CO

Let's Get Acquainted!

Check out our website and see if your church is currently highlighted or read about other churches in our Midwest Conference:

(www.midwestcovenant.org/conference-news/lets-get-acquainted)

Did you know? The "Prayer Calendar" is available on our website at www.midwestcovenant.org (go to "conference news" and view the prayer calendar in "Publications") or contact your local church office.

Do you have something to submit for possible use in this newsletter or on our conference website? Send to: midcovcon@qwestoffice.net for consideration.

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The Midwest Conference is a mission association of Covenant churches in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Superintendent Returns Refreshed and Ready for MWC Ministry

Supt. Ken Carlson and wife, Nancy, are extremely grateful to the Midwest Conference and Executive Board for the gift of a 6-week sabbatical. Supt. Carlson was allowed time to immerse himself in a different environment, taking a break from the routine of conference ministry. He was allowed a time to rest and study, away from e-mail, letters and busy phones. He returns eager and ready to continue the ministries he shares with the Midwest Conference staff, board and churches.

The Journey Covenant Church, Wichita, Kansas



Having begun as a new church in 1995, The Journey (originally called Covenant Community Church) has worshiped in a number of unique locations—a movie theater, YMCA gym, a storefront and an elementary school. In 2006, they moved into their current location, a former 10-acre site of a local nursery. On November 22, this congregation celebrated the dedication of their new building

expansion, 5,000 square feet of new worship space, offices and kitchen. Won't you join Pastor Brent and Patty Thompson and their congregation in praying that this new construction be used as an outpost for ministry opportunity? View their Grand Opening video at: <http://www.thejourneypodcasts.com/category/video-fun>

Fall Retreats Well Attended!

The beautiful St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE, offered a restful retreat to 46 pastors and spouses. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, a North Park Seminary professor, and Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry in Chicago, Dave Kersten, were special guests.

The YMCA Camp of the Rockies and Covenant Heights Camp and Retreat Center in Estes Park, CO, saw Jeff Mazzariello, Pastor of Spiritual Formation in San Rafael, CA, and former executive director at Covenant Bible College in Windsor, CO, sharing a message with 42 guests, including special guest, Gary Walter, President of the Covenant.

Sudanese Ministries – 10 years with the Midwest Conference!

In 1999, two ethnic Evangelical Covenant churches were established in Des Moines, IA, and Omaha, NE. The **South Sudan Evangelical Covenant Church** of Des Moines and **Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan** in Omaha represented the first fully ethnic church plants in the Midwest Conference since our former Swedish ethnic days! Happy 10th Anniversary!

Veritas Seminar for Church Plants

Revitalization might sound like it is for older churches, but two MWC church plants felt it was time to use a Veritas workshop to help them refocus and recharge their vitality. **Heartland Covenant, Springfield, MO, and Harvest Ridge Covenant, Shawnee, KS**, are 10-12 year-old church plants experiencing their first transition in pastoral leadership. Each church recently hosted a three-hour version of Veritas, led by Associate Superintendent Dave Benedict, who said, "We modified the presentation so it would address the need of church plants to remember the vitality of their 'youth'. I think it could be a pivotal moment for both churches."



May His birth bless you and yours this Christmas Season!

Midwest Conference Staff
Ken, Dave, Rick, Lori and Reva

1KCP³ – Wanted: 1,000 Church Planting Prayer Partners -- E-mail the Conference Office and request to be a part of this ministry: midcovcon@qwestoffice.net