

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

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Racial Justice and Equality - Mission Possible!

Submitted by Rev. Gary Batey, Roser Memorial Community Church

I'm writing this on April 15. It's IRS day for America, but Jackie Robinson Day for major league baseball. I'm a baseball fan, so that's important to me. I was born a stone's throw from Wrigley Field, and like all my family members, I was a Cubs fan growing up (although I secretly listened to White Sox games after I went to bed at night, using an earphone I'd nearly electrocuted myself connecting to a vacuum tube radio—if you don't know what that is, ask your grandpa.). I used to live near Riverfront Stadium in Cincinnati during the era of the Big Red Machine, and followed their triumphs with a deep sense of vicarious glory. I have season tickets to the Tampa Bay Rays. I'm a Charter member of the Bradenton Marauders boosters (The Pirates minor league team that plays in my newest hometown). I'm a baseball fan. I'm also a middle-aged (or slightly over-aged) white, middle class American who grew up in middle America in the 1950s, and therefore didn't know that we Americans had (and still have!) a serious, pervasive, systemic problem with racial injustice.



Today is Jackie Robinson Day. Every player in major league baseball wears number 42 today in his honor. Jackie came from the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Baseball League, from a time when professional sports (and just about everything else in this country) was racially segregated. Northern-born white people think segregation was a weird anomaly of the Deep South that we didn't participate in. We did, and we still do, we're just a whole lot more subtle and sophisticated in the ways we apply it. But professional major league teams—totally segregated by race—were located in New York, Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Detroit, Baltimore, Cleveland, Cincinnati: Northern cities where racial segregation was unheard of. Yeah, right; unheard of maybe (perhaps “unmentionable” is closer to the truth) but real and terrible.

Jackie Robinson broke major league baseball's color barrier. His quality, dignity, poise, and class made him the perfect choice for breaking that shameful barrier. Jackie was really, really good; but he wasn't the best player in the Negro Leagues. Jackie was just the best player that Brooklyn Dodgers baseball executive Branch Rickey thought white America could tolerate. Jackie had to be an exceptionally good baseball player in order to get the job, but he also had to be a black player white people could stomach.

Every honor Jackie Robinson has ever received since is well-deserved. He was a great ballplayer, a great American, and a great human being. He paved the way for other talented African-American athletes to make a career for themselves in professional sports, and through their accomplishments, they have enriched the quality of sports in this country. How sad for all of us that in order to do that, they not only had to succeed in their sport, they also had to please the tastes, sensitivities, and insecurities of white America.

That was unfortunate in the realm of American sports. It has been even more unfortunate (and I would say “Un-American”) in our national marketplace, economy, and government. Most painful of all, it has continued in our nation; even in our churches. The preferences (or is it “prejudices”?) and sensitivities of the white majority seem to prevail, even when obviously erroneous and counter-productive.

By all means celebrate Jackie Robinson Day. Jackie certainly earned it. But let's not be too hasty to congratulate ourselves on how far we've come in the realm of racial justice and equity. We have come a long way, but not far enough. Not nearly far enough.

I appreciate and honor those who formed the ICCC as a witness to our oneness in Christ, and as advocates for racial justice and equality in the mid-twentieth century. Through their commitment and example the American church came a long way toward racial inclusiveness, cooperation, and justice. But not nearly far enough. The rest is up to us. We still have a mission.

President's Message

Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Merton

By now all of our churches and centers, along with pastors and key lay people, have received copies of the proposed ‘structural’ changes for leading and governing the I.C.C.C. It is my hope that those who directly received copies will make sure that many others have a chance to read, discuss and respond to the proposal. We will vote on the proposal at our conference in Grand Rapids. Regardless of outcome, I offer sincere thanks to the Design Committee which was chaired by Past President and, almost, lifelong member of the I.C.C.C., The Rev. Herb Freitag.

I have received quite a few comments from people in response to the proposal and to the column I wrote last month in which I shared the very serious and precarious financial position of the I.C.C.C.

First, let me offer a word of sincere thanks to those individuals and churches that did respond to last month's article with significant financial gifts. I thank God every day for the people and churches who unfailingly support the I.C.C.C. and its witness to unity in the midst of diversity within the Christian family. **Of particular note, it is individual gifts that continue to show the way!**

I am very sorry that all the comments have not been accompanied by new or increased financial support. That would have been very helpful! **The painful reality is that our financial situation continued to worsen in April. We once again drew on savings simply to stay afloat!**

Consideration of our organizational and missional future is inextricably tied to the situation of the present moment. It certainly seems that many of our ‘member’ churches and centers continue to fail in their accepted responsibility to appropriately and willingly support the I.C.C.C. **We cannot move forward into a future together unless we are willing to support the present needs of our organization and its mission.**

I must confess that I found some solid food for thought in two comments I received:

- “I received the new organizational redesign proposal. One question: *Why are we rearranging the deck chairs on our Titanic?* Long ago our founders contributed their time, talent, treasure and theological vision to building something that they believed would not ‘sink’ or ‘go down’ as it plied the berg laden sea of faith and life. *It appears they were wrong! They were wrong, not because of*



poor design or vision, but because they did not foresee a future where the crew members running the ship would become derelict in their duty. Let our “Titanic” go down! Save what we can and let's build a ‘new ship.’ Let's build it in honor of our forebears who saw the family of God as radically inclusive of ALL people, not just blacks and whites. Let the new ship sail the waters of life and faith boldly and courageously, even risking ‘berg’ encounters with the firm belief that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Let the new ship be built with the forethought expressed in this design. Let it have a state-of-the-art navigational system based on a Christ-like theological position of radical inclusion. Combine those things with a crew made up of members who will serve faithfully, diligently and not tolerate dereliction of duty or the abandonment of responsibility by labeling others as ‘crew members’ when, in fact, they are not!”

Sounds pretty radical to me! Yet, sometimes difficult and desperate circumstances require radical rethinking, reimagining, retooling and reorganization.

Another pastor who is, according to our Council Minister, “fairly representative of those clergy who aren't close to the inner workings of the Council, but who have the best interests of the Council and the community church movement at heart,” said,

- “Don't tell us that we aren't giving and you're going broke, because we won't give a dime to that. We will give to expanding a mission, not to maintaining an institution. Tell us something exciting that we can give to and we'll give.”

I have served in some capacity on your Board of Trustees since 2004. During those years of service I have heard

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Vision 2020

by Don Ashmall
Council Minister



In his column in this issue of the *Christian Community*, President Merton has sounded a clarion call. We must either address our current challenges as a Council, or construct a new mechanism that will carry forward the vision and work of the community church movement. The vision is one of Christian reconciliation in a unity without uniformity that is as deep and broad as the love of Jesus, and that celebrates diversity without division. The work is welcoming all Christendom into that vision of unity, one church and ministry center at a time.

In witnessing to the vision and doing the work, I don't want to have to re-invent the wheel. And neither do you. That means our best efforts will enliven and empower the fellowship that exists here and now. That fellowship is the International Council of Community Churches, which has a tradition of being untraditional, and a creative style that confounds all the so-called experts in church practice and style. So let us build on that tradition and live out that style!

To you as individuals, churches and centers, and a fellowship: I propose *Vision 2020* to be our guide for the next seven years. *Vision 2020* will include the following:

- ✠ Beginning today, we commit ourselves to launching seven new community churches in the USA in the next seven years in those parts of the nation where population is growing and where there is a need for new Christian congregations. At least four of these need to be in areas where various ethnic and linguistic minority populations are growing. Simultaneously we commit ourselves to cooperating with our non-USA churches to launch seven new community churches outside the USA. Some may think that one church per year in the USA is too modest a goal. Perhaps it is. Let's hear from you on the possibilities!
- ✠ Beginning today, we commit ourselves to enlisting ten existing unaffiliated congregations in the USA per year over the next seven years into the community church movement. That's ten churches and centers "net." There will be some shrinkage. Some will grow weary and faint. Some will fall away. But we will not be deterred, We will grow by ten USA congregations per year for the next seven years. Simultaneously, we commit ourselves to cooperating with our non-USA churches for similar growth in numbers of churches that participate fully in the Council's work. Is this goal too modest? Let's hear from you!
- ✠ Beginning today, we commit ourselves to nothing less than excellence in our regional and area meetings. Can we gather as regional and/or area fellowships twice per year? Can one of those twice-per-year meetings feature a speaker of national or regional note? Can that meeting be heavily publicized to non-Council clergy and laity? Can we offer a registration fee low enough and a venue large enough to attract and accommodate all who wish to come see and hear the noted speaker? Let's consider this and then act!
- ✠ Beginning today, we commit ourselves to an annual continuing education assembly for clergy beyond our Annual Conference. There are venues among our churches and centers for a multi-day event to which we could invite theologians and Biblical scholars of note. This assembly must be at a time of year when it is not in competition with academic convocations – coincidentally, the time of year when most of our clergy are most able to clear their schedules. These annual assemblies of clergy will need to concentrate on strengthening ministries for churches on the way to unity. Can we host such an annual, excellent event? Of course we can!
- ✠ Beginning today, we commit ourselves to deeper fellowship within the community church movement. This includes regularly scheduled gatherings of clergy both Council and non-ICCC, that don't wait for a regional Trustee to hector us into getting together. This includes pulpit and choir exchanges among community churches without waiting for the Council Minister to nag us about it. This includes joint gatherings of men's, women's, young-adult and youth groups without tarrying for anybody's urging. The objective will be to advance toward the vision. Can we do it? Yes we can!

If we are truly committed to our vision, we will do more than give assent to ideas and to programs. Protestations of loyalty won't be enough. Every one of these and other concepts will need to be made real by specific, achievable steps. Together and separately we must follow up with a genuine and generous investment of time, talent, and treasure. But commitment comes first. So here are my questions for you:

- ✠ Are you committed to a vision of Christian unity that is as deep and broad as the love of Jesus?
- ✠ Are you committed to the community church movement, striving to make that vision real?
- ✠ Will you invest your time, talent and treasure in that vision, beginning today?

I believe that you are committed. I believe that you will do what is needed to strengthen the work today, so that we may move forward into the future.

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REVIEWS



Dr. Robert M. Puckett

MEDITATIONS OF THE SOUL: Devotional Reading for Serious Christians in Uncertain Times; Rev. Don Meredith Welch; ASA Publishing Company, Christ Temple Evangelical Ministries, an ICCC active member, Detroit, Michigan; 2009, paperback, 171 pages, \$15.95 (It retails on Amazon.com)

This book of meditations is designed to give comfort and strength in uncertain times to all who read, meditate, and pray over them. It is the hope of the author, Reverend Don Meredith Welch, that readers will "find peace for your day and joy for your soul that will help you transfer the love of God to others." (p. vi) Having experienced great tragedies in his own life Reverend Welch shares the sources he found that enabled him to endure the storms of life. He is pastor of Christ Temple Evangelical Ministries in Detroit, Michigan, which is affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches.

There are forty brief meditations here that may be used as a daily devotional guide to finding a closer relationship with God. The book is divided into four sections: Our Need for God, Learning To Trust in God, Our Relationship With God, and Our Purpose in God.

Reverend Welch writes with a poetic flare that is interesting, informative, and inspiring. "The roller coaster of life often makes us feel lost, confused, sick, or lonely. We find ourselves searching for that something in life that brings order and peace to our souls. During the lowest moments, life itself seems to be one long tragedy after another." (p. 10) "Teenage shootings, murders in our schools, little children being shot in their home, all the foolishness of the streets tell us that our values are in need of serious correction." (p. 13) All of these things tell us of our need for God, and these meditations help us find our way back to God.

Each meditation raises a serious question that haunts our daily lives and tells us how faith in God addresses those questions. One excellent example is found on page 63 in the meditation entitled "To Sing in a Strange Land."

"Did you wake up this morning saying to yourself, 'This is not where I belong?' Have you ever felt there is no reason to smile? Do you ever feel that others are laughing at your most profound thoughts, taking what you believe to be sacred as a source of entertainment?... Then you know how it feels to be in a strange land."

This meditation rests on Psalm 137 which asks "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" The people of Israel were experiencing the bitterness of captivity in Babylon. "They decided it's easier to quit and give in than to stand steadfast, unmovable, and committed. But the race is not won by the swift nor the battle by the strong; it is he who endures to the end that shall be saved. When we would rather smoke, sniff, or sip our way through life than to hold tight, believe, and fight for our rightful place in life, we're giving in to the pressure of being a child of Zion in a strange land." That means to give up hope and give in to despair. (p. 65)

"The Babylonians wanted them to act like they were happy to be in the midst of this misery...They had forgotten that even in Babylon, God is still God. God still sees, knows and cares what happens to them." (p. 66)

So, I tell you today that you've got a song to sing. A Zion song to sing. A song that has the inner vision of a Stevie Wonder and Ray Charles. A song that has the beat of Quincy Jones and Kirk Franklin. A song that says, "Who we are, and Whose we are." A song that says, "I am some body, I'm special, I am a Child of the King." A song of Zion is a song of praise and faith, a song of trust and hope. A song that says I can trust the LORD with all my hopes and all my dreams, because He's faithful." (p. 68)

Read prayerfully and be blessed!!

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President: Bruce Merton

Vice Presidents: Richard Griffith, Charlene Watkins

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THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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Annual Conference Checklist

- Have you done the following yet?
- Sent in your registration form and fee?
 - Called the Crowne Plaza hotel and made your reservations? 800/593-5447 **Deadline June 27th.**
 - Made your meal reservations (optional) with the Council office?
 - Suggested an individual to the Nominating Committee for the available positions of Council Leadership?
 - Sent in or talked to your church/center about placing an ad in the conference book?
 - Contacted the office about volunteering at conference?
 - Sent in or talked to your church about sending their Voting Delegate form? Have the delegates reviewed the proposed constitution/by-laws revision being voted on during the Business Session?
 - If you are clergy, have you let the Council Office know you will be present at the Outreach Reception (see below) at Christ Community Church on Saturday, July 20th?

If you need more information, please contact the Council office.

Conference Updates

OUTREACH AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ICCC clergy and Board of Trustees members are invited to gather with pastors and other clerics from nearby non-member churches at a reception. As we're arriving for 2013's Annual Conference, this meet-and-greet event will be an opportunity for fellowship, interpretation of the community church movement, and an introduction to Annual Conference and its opportunities. Watch the ICCC Facebook page for this event, and indicate if you will be attending. Or phone Council House 815-464-5690.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2013

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

2400 Forest Hill SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-8258

GOT WHEELS?

The youth of the ICCC are getting ready to reflect the light of Jesus Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan! Our slate of activities will include guest speakers, mission trips, and of course, growing in our love for our Savior. So far we will be reflecting Jesus' light through our service at Kids' Food Basket. This organization provides sack suppers for those in need. The suppers are delivered each day to parks around Grand Rapids. Kids' Food Basket is only one organization, of many, with which we hope to share the light.

In order for the youth to serve at different mission sites, we need your help with transportation. If you are planning to drive a bus or van to Grand Rapids, would you consider "loaning" us your vehicle for travel to mission sites? Most of these sites are within 15 miles from our hotel. If you are willing to help with transportation, please email Rev. Kerri Sandusky at ksandusky@churchatlitchfieldpark.org or call 623-935-3411. We welcome your help!

Urgent Request!

The Nominating Committee is **STILL** seeking suggestions for individuals to be considered for Council leadership. If you have suggestions or would like to be considered yourself, please send a brief profile of each person recommended and the position(s) indicated. Include information detailing activities in Church/Center, Community and the ICCC.

Mail to: Carolyn Ford, Nominating Committee Chairperson - ICCC, 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423-3112 or email Carolyn at: personal-touch_22@att.net or 248-352-9297. You can also reach out to any member of the Nominating Committee: Abraham Wright, Lonnie Miller, Marty Singley and Harvey Carr. A list of available positions is available on our website and in both the February & March 2013 Christian Community newsletter.

SOS

(Support Our Students)

The Jordan Scholarship Fund needs your monetary help. In addition to what you plan to give this year in support of the I.C.C.C., would you prayerfully consider making a donation to the Jordan Scholarship fund? Any amount will be appreciated!

Thank you
The Jordan Scholarship Committee

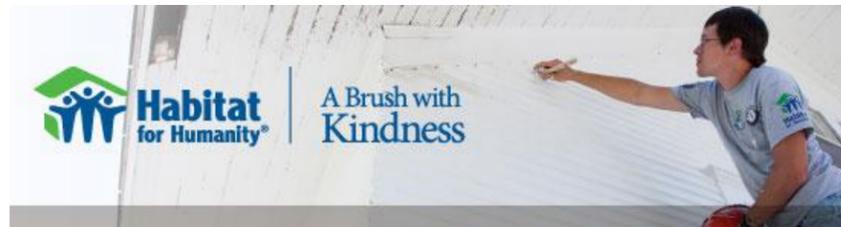
Attention Young Adults! (18+)

**Habitat for Humanity Young Adult Mission
at the ICCC 63rd Annual Conference
July 21-24, 2013 • Grand Rapids, MI**

"A time of reflection...reflect the light!" Matthew 5:14

This conference will include an opportunity for young adults to participate in a comprehensive program of study and service with Habitat for Humanity:

A Brush with Kindness (two volunteer days)



Habitat for Humanity's A Brush With Kindness is a program serving low-income homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes. Volunteers help homeowners with exterior maintenance. This includes painting, minor exterior repairs, landscaping, weatherization and exterior clean-up.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore (one volunteer day)



ReStore relies on volunteers to help with customer service, sorting inventory, cleaning merchandise and picking up donations. ReStore becomes a better place when volunteers are dedicating their time to support affordable housing efforts.

"I see life as both a gift and a responsibility.

My responsibility is to use what God has given me to help his people in need."

– Millard Fuller, founder & former president, Habitat for Humanity

For more information, contact Doris Marcisak, the Young Adult Leader, at mist8993@gmail.com

Don't forget.... Roser Memorial Community Church in Anna Maria, FL where Gary Batey is the Senior Pastor, will pay the 2013 Annual Conference registration fee for 2 Young Adults from different churches attending the ICCC Annual Conference for the first time. To take advantage of this offer, please contact the ICCC Council Office to see if they are still available: ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net or 815-464-5690.

Seeking a Senior Pastor

"I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly." – St. John 10:10

People's Community Church is a Singing, Praying, Tithing, Serving and Loving congregation, seeking a spiritual and energetic pastor. People's Community Church was organized in 1954 and is a charter member of the International Council of Community Churches. In response to God's call and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, it is the mission of People's Community Church to be a Community of Faith through which the Kingdom of God might be revealed. The Pastoral Search Committee request your resume along with a video, CD or recording of a recent sermon.

The candidate must be an ordained minister, a graduate of a university and an accredited theological seminary with a divinity degree or its equivalence.

He/she must also have actively pastored for at least three years in a congregation that is recognized by the International Council of Community Churches. Must have the love of the gospel; demonstrating qualities of strong leadership in the areas of preaching, teaching, administration, community relations and be able to relate to all generations of the congregation. He/she must demonstrate the ability to stimulate positive church growth in the inter-city area of Detroit.

Interested candidates may submit requested documents to the attention of the Search Committee for Pastoral Leadership, People's Community Church, 8601 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 – Carolyn Ford, Chairperson. Initial interest may also communicate via email at personal-touch_22@att.net.

President's Message cont'd from page 1

many discussions about mission, vision, budget, and membership requirements. The Board has placed in our budget, with consent of the voting delegates, monies for doing national and/or regional mission projects that reflect our mission statement. Some of the ideas and possibilities for those projects have been openly shared. **The reality is that none of the monies were expended and none of the projects were done because, while we voted to support our budget, we failed to put our money where our votes were.**

We have heard the old adage: "Practice makes perfect." It is NOT true! Only perfect practice makes perfect. If we keep doing the same things, we will keep getting the same results!

There is simply no way that we can move forward to meet the missional, organizational and executive leadership needs of the I.C.C.C. if we keep doing what we have been doing in recent years.

As part of the protestant religious landscape that is, in many ways, fracturing and rupturing at an alarming pace, the **I.C.C.C. does have exciting news to share.** We do have a **wonderful witness to bear.** It comes out of scripture, the vision of our forebears, and the radical coming together which launched us missionally and organizationally over 60 years ago. We can be the singular voice and witness for radical inclusion in the Christian movement. **That holds great possibility. It promises to be a challenging venture. It will require our trust in God's radical and reconciling grace in Christ. And it will, and should, demand our time, talent and treasure.** "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." (I Corinthians 5:18,19)

Being your elected president, I take seriously my responsibility to communicate openly, honestly and without pretense. Recently those communications have been tough!

I certainly wish I could write the President's articles with a feel good fluff and flair. I wish I could write these articles with glowing affirmation of our growth and vitality. I wish I could write these articles highlighting incredible stories about the difference the I.C.C.C. is making on the landscape of faith and in the lives of people.

Even more so, I wish, I hope, I pray for an honest and faith-full response to what I have honestly and faithfully shared with you!

A united, honest and faith-full response now will go a long way to making sure that the 'ship' we have sails on to complete its voyage **OR** the 'new ship' we build sails boldly where we have never gone before.

Criminal Violence Resolution Efforts

In March 2013, the ICCC Board of Trustees adopted a resolution:

"Criminal violence is a scourge affecting urban areas across the United States, endangering all of our citizens and especially our children. We give thanks to God for the creative efforts generated within our own member churches and ministry centers, and within the larger faith community, seeking to address this tragic situation through cooperative action. We urge the servant leaders of our own churches and ministry centers, businesses, civic and community service organizations and government, and to all who are in positions of influence and authority to participate in practical efforts to reduce violence as a first step in building that which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the beloved community." We pledge our own participation in these proactive efforts by prayer and by action."

Kathleen Roberts, part of the Peace Team at **Protestant Community Church**, Medford Lakes, NJ, **Steve Winkler** Senior Pastor, sent a letter to the Council Office to share how their church is participating in practical efforts to reduce violence. She states:

"We wanted to share with you what we are doing at PCC and perhaps a meaningful dialogue among ICCC churches can grow into a community of peace. After the Sandy Hook School tragedy, we decided to dedicate 2013 to a year of peace - to step away from violence. We really didn't know exactly what that would look like. Eight members meet and we talk about suggested projects and try them. Following are just some of the activities we are doing so far."

We have a '26 Acts of Kindness' project to remember the 26 who died at Sandy Hook School. We are handing out to the congregation each week our 26 weeks of kindness cards to encourage each to do a special act of kindness. Some share the card with the recipient; others prefer not to. The result is we are more conscious of the need for kindness."

We participated in a special Stations of the Cross Walk with churches of Camden on Good Friday. Each station was a place of murder. Father Doyle of Sacred Heart Church provided a story of each of the persons killed. Our men's breakfast group asked the county prosecutor who was part of our congressman's team against violence to speak at their breakfast. A special mental health program, 'Being There' is to be presented to our youth and perhaps adult church members in May."

Also in May we are planting a Peace Pole. Other churches in the community will be participating. We hope to grow it into a faith dialogue using the 'Amazing Faiths' program. Further for May are art classes at the church with the theme 'Pathways to Peace.'

Our Sunday School superintendent started a meditation program for the Sunday School children that is going quite well. We may expand it for adults."

These are just a few of the projects we are doing. Using the ICCC Resolution as our starting point, we want to make our own statement on peace. We will be working on that in the months to come. We would love to hear how other ICCC churches have responded to the violence that surrounds us and what our responsibility as Christians is."

Please share how your church or center is responding. We'll publish your comments and articles in upcoming issues of the Christian Community and/or on the ICCC website and Facebook page.

Sharing Joys:



- Council Minister **Don Ashmall** joined ICCC members **Hare Varnon** and **Wendy Childress** April 9th at a graduation banquet recognizing their completion of the course of study required for all new chaplains. This event was held at the Fort Jackson Officers' Club, Fort Jackson, SC.
- **Tellico Village Community Church** celebrated 25 years as a congregation on March 24th. To view a slideshow of the event, go to their website www.tellicochurch.com.
- **Gary Batey**, Senior Pastor at **Roser Memorial Community Church**, announced recently that he will retire from fulltime ordained ministry and from his position at Roser effective July 1, 2013. He will remain at Roser during the transition, to keep day-to-day ministry and mission going smoothly while the congregation and search committee seek his replacement.
- The **Spiritual Science Fellowship** of Canada (SFF) and the Int'l Institute of Human Sciences (IIHS) will hold their 38th International Conference July 5-14, 2013. SSF was founded by **Dr. Marilyn Rossner**. IIHS was founded by both Dr. Rossner and her husband **Fr. John Rossner**, who passed away last year. Fr. Rossner worked tirelessly for peace among all peoples, all traditions, all religions and enjoyed organizing International Conferences, peace and missions.
- **Helen Long**, wife of the late Rev. Dr. **Kermit Long**, **Friendship House**, has recently moved to California, just north of Sacramento. Her cat, Jamie, made the journey with her, but did not appreciate the airplane ride. Helen's new address is 625 Eskaton Circle, Grass Valley,

CA 95945-5727 in case you'd like to get in touch with her.



Our prayers are with:

Pastor **Fred Perkins**, **Tennessee Valley Community Church**, who had surgery on May 14th. His family asks for your prayers for a speedy recovery.

- **Jeanette Rothberg**, **Roser Memorial Community Church**, whose mother, Margaret Dean, died to life everlasting on April 6th.
- The family of **Charlene Agee** and **Park Road Community Church**. Deaconess Agee passed away on April 14th. She was a faithful member of Region B Area 1 and attended several ICCC conferences until her health went on the decline.
- The family of Rev. **David Creech**, pastor of **Peoples Community Church** in Washington, DC., a former charter member of the ICCC. Rev. Creech died on March 24th, the day after he was out celebrating with his daughter.
- **St. Anne Woods Chapel Community Church** with the passing of Deacon **Dexter "Doc" Spears**, husband to Clementine Spears and the father of 7! Doc was the church musician for many years and organized the Kankakee Land Gospel Singers, and later created the Hopkins Park Gospel Singers, which remain active today. Doc died on January 5th.
- Rev. **James C. Glenn**, **St. Anne Woods Chapel Community Church**, with the passing of two cousins: **Myron Charles Glenn** on December 8, 2012 and **Tyrone Harper** on Feb. 9th.
- **Mt. Zion Community Church**, Birmingham, AL, with the passing of: **Evelyn Shamburger**, a Sunday School teacher and faithful member, on May 1st and **Donald Moorer**, son of member **Catherine Moorer**, on May 6th. **Dennis E. Brock** is the Senior Pastor of the congregation.

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So: let me hear from you. Are you committed? Are you willing to work in specific ways on one or more parts of **Vision 2020**? Will you invest your time, talent and treasure in the service of the community church movement beginning today? Let me know what you will do today, and what you will do daily, weekly, monthly and annually for the next seven years! Please don't write to tell me that you are a side-lines cheerleader. We need team members who are willing to invest themselves in a vision that ultimately is not ours, but Jesus'! My email address is icccda@sbcglobal.net. My postal mail address is 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, IL 60423.

May God bless you in your faithful discipleship.

Seeking a Pastor

If you believe you have the leadership experience, tools and skills needed to assist and encourage an active member supported and governed church-community, then your initial correspondence will inspire us to get to know you. The successful candidate must be ordained and have a master's degree or equivalent from an accredited theological seminary.

For more information about our church please consult our website, www.greendalepeopleschurch.org. Candidates may forward their resume and introduction letter along with a transcript, video or recording of a recent sermon to: office@greendalepeopleschurch.org or mail to Search Committee, c/o Greendale People's Church, 25 Francis St., Worcester, MA 01606.