

**News from Around the District. . . .**

**August 2011**

**Welcome!**

**Pastor Elijah Layfield** and his wife, Shannon, recently moved to New Prague, MN where Elijah is serving as pastor of the New Prague Alliance Church. The Layfields have a son, Eli. An installation service was held June 26 with Superintendent Wiggins participating in the service.



**Rev. Larry Burg** accepted the call to be the first pastor of NewLife Church in Aitkin, MN. Larry and his wife, Nancy, have served as International Workers with the C&MA in Burkina Faso since 1994 and at Crown College this past year.

**New District Staff Member**

**Rev. Steve Hammer** will join the Northwestern District staff team as **Assistant to the Superintendent for Church Health**, effective September 15. Rev. Hammer has served as lead pastor of Lombard Bible Church, Lombard, IL since 2002. He also has deep personal and ministry roots in the Northwestern District—a native of Huron, SD and former pastor of Riverside Church in Monticello. He and Beth have been married 35 years and have two grown sons, Daniel and Joseph.



**Going Public!**

**LifeTree Church** in Buffalo Minnesota is going public! You can find them on Facebook. You can see them at work in community events in Buffalo. You can watch them on YouTube. After a few months of “soft launch” services in a local public school, Tom Murel and the *LifeTree* congregation will celebrate their first public service on September 11.

God has been blessing our district’s newest church plant since it’s inception in early 2011. Community residents are voicing their acceptance and appreciation. People are connecting to Christ and one another! The church is supported by a unique partnership with *Freshwater Community Church*, involvement from area pastors and support from the NWD office and funds.

Go public with your involvement!

During the last 3 weekends in August, the *LifeTree* family will be ‘canvassing’ the community. Your small group could be involved!

You and your church friends could hook up with the *LifeTree* family and put out ‘door hangers’ on Saturday, September 3 throughout Buffalo.

Along with your life-group, you could pray for *LifeTree*’s influence on the spiritual temperature of this Minnesota community.

Continue to pray for the church planting couple - Tom and Becky Murel - the launch team, and their impact on Buffalo and the surrounding community. Follow them at: [www.lifetreemn.com](http://www.lifetreemn.com).



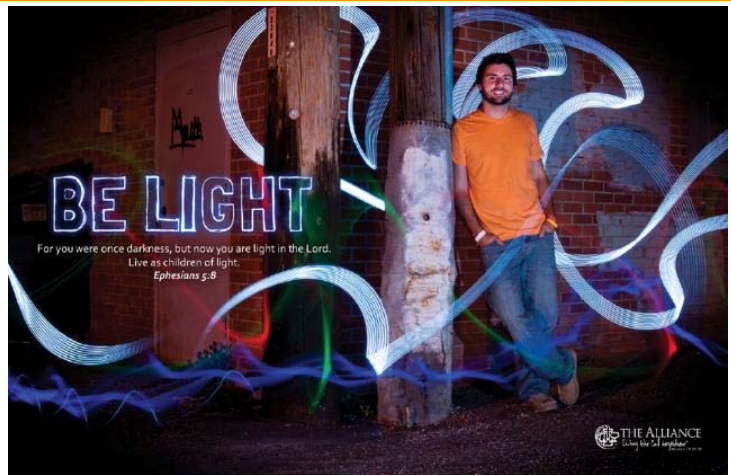
## Pushing Back the Darkness: Be Light!

The missions theme for this fall has been announced! Posters, DVDs and other materials will be arriving at each Alliance church in the next few weeks. Other resources are available for download

at: [www.cmalliance.org](http://www.cmalliance.org) As our international workers live Christ in more than 60 countries, most in the 10/40 window, we 'push back the darkness' by proclaiming Christ!

Our vision is to go where there is the greatest need of light. This will preach! (John 8:12 or Romans 15:20,21) By establishing holistic communities of faith in Jesus Christ we gain a hearing. We are concerned about human suffering, all suffering, especially eternal suffering. This will preach! (Acts 4:12) We believe that Christ, working in and through His Church, is the answer. And He has commissioned us act and to pray (Acts 1:8, II Corinthians 10:4, II Thessalonians 3:1) All are thoughts and texts for congregations to ponder prior to this fall's missions events!

Information on the NWD fall missions speakers and schedules have arrived for each of our churches. Contact your pastor and/or missions point-person for details.

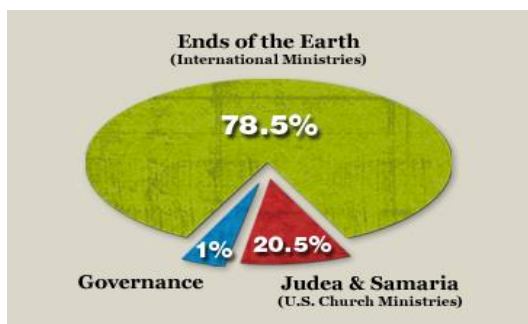


## Supporting the Great Commission Fund

The entire family of US churches (2,058 churches) share in the support of our global ministries, praying for, engaging with and supporting more than 800 workers in more than 60 countries across the globe! The NWD family (100 churches) have 24 international workers overseas (15 families with International Ministries and 9 families and individuals), plus 4 apprentices! We are doing our part in supporting them!

In the first 6 months of 2011, our NWD churches have given nearly \$938,000 to further the advance of Alliance ministries. Most of this, \$686,000, is Great Commission Fund (GCF) contributions, and the remainder goes towards CAMA, projects and special ministries.

**Thank you for your generosity as, together, we 'push back the darkness'!**



## NWDistrict International Workers - Fall 2011



Chad Clason - Guinea



Phil Skellie - CAMA



Rollo Royle - Burkina Faso



Carl Ralston & Remember Nhu Ministry



Paul & Nelda Johnson  
Ecuador



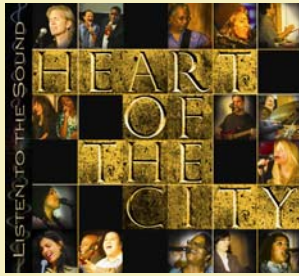
Calvin & Pearl Lai - Berlin



Gordon & Cheryl  
Roedding - Mali



Creative Access &  
CAMA Workers



**Dan and Sandy Adler** and their multi-ethnic worship band, **Heart of the City**, just released their fourth CD of multi-ethnic praise and worship songs that Dan has written entitled "Listen to the Sound". Reflecting the diversity of the band, the styles of songs on this CD include Native American, East Indian Bhangra, Reggae,

Black Gospel, Bossa Nova and include lyrics in English, Spanish, Hmong and Portugese. The songs are all congregational and can be used in local churches to help reach out to the diverse ethnic groups around our congregations. This Easter, their song, "Resurrection Chant" off of their previous "It All Belongs to You" CD, was released as a choral anthem through WORD Music and was sung by over 27,000 choir members in churches around the USA. If you would like to bring Heart of the City to your church or would like to use their songs as a resource for your worship ministry, you can contact Dan Adler at 763-315-1917 or [dadler@heartofthecity.org](mailto:dadler@heartofthecity.org) and you can hear clips from their CD's at [www.heartofthecity.org](http://www.heartofthecity.org) or iTunes."

### Witnessing Tool Kits for Kids

If you are looking for resources to help kids understand what Baptism and Communion are all about, these two resources are endorsed by Church Ministries of the C&MA.



Another resource for witnessing to children is the "Good News in Color" booklet that uses silly bands in gospel colors and shapes along with the full color tract.



For more information go to: [www.gracecma.org](http://www.gracecma.org), or to download these materials go to: <http://www.gracebeta.org/disciplezone-resources>

### Adult Discipleship Resource

**Dr. Jim Lewis** is available for ministry in C&MA churches in the wider Twin Cities area.

Here are adult education topics he could provide to your church in 4-8 week blocks:

- *Bible teaching* : "Jeremiah: The Terminal Generation", "Acts: Helping a Friend Find Confidence"
- *Christianity and Culture*: "Islam and Christianity: Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?"; "Buddha and Christ: Karma and Forgiveness Square Off"; "Yoga and Meditation: Is it for Evangelicals?"

Call Jim at 651-484-5050(H), 651-638-6117(O), or email him: [j-lewis@bethel.edu](mailto:j-lewis@bethel.edu).

Looking for Children's Ministry Resources?  
The C&MA Children's Disciplemaking Team is here to serve you!!



Dennis \* Debbie \* Monty (Director) \* Melissa (Consultant) \* Kris (Becky-not pictured)

email: [kidz@alliancedisciplemaking.org](mailto:kidz@alliancedisciplemaking.org)  
or call: 719-265-2057

### Did you know . . . ?

- . . . you can connect with a community of C&MA children's ministry disciplemakers on facebook (simply search "CMA Children's Disciplemaking" and join the conversation) and in the Disciplemaking Network (use your MyCMA account to log in)?
- . . . consulting is available, for any size church you serve?
- . . . they are a group of ministers who are passionate about what God is doing in kids through the Alliance?
- . . . they are constantly listening for new ways to better serve you and your children's ministry?



### Congratulations!

**Ariya Faith** was born to Gabe and Jessica Norton (Apple Valley, MN) on June 16, 2011. She joins 4 sisters and 1 brother in the Norton family.



Joshua and Jayme Benjamin (Echo, MN) welcomed their first child, **James Roman**, on July 3, 2011.

## A Word from Dave Toth—BSC Executive Director

Greetings from Big Sandy Camp!

July 19 marked our one year anniversary at Big Sandy Camp! The year passed by so very quickly I can hardly believe it. We are enjoying this ministry very much. To all of you who have stopped in and introduced yourselves, we are so grateful for your visit and support. We are learning that the Big Sandy family is far reaching. We have much to do but are reminded just why we labor when we see nearly 250 Jr. High campers here this week filling chapel and singing at the top of their lungs! Many will leave here with lifelong, key memories about their encounters with God.



*Hot enough for ya?* Well, this will cool you off! Dates are set for the **Winter Avalanche retreats**, so get your youth thinking about Winter 2012 at camp! Junior Avalanche—January 6-8, Junior High—January 27-29, and Senior high—February 3-5.

But, long before the snow flies we have the **Big Sandy Open Golf Tournament, The Motorcycle ride-in event, Labor Day Family Camp** and **Seniors Retreat!** Check out the BSC website at [www.BigSandyCamp.com](http://www.BigSandyCamp.com) for full details!

## Turtle Mountain Indian Church—Dunseith, ND



Pastor Gary Dorn writes, “Thanks to the vision of a few and the generosity of many (including Big Sandy Camp of course) we were once again able to send nine youth from the **Turtle Mountain Reservation** to camp for a week. The kiddos had a wonderful time and by Saturday morning they were convinced they should just live there having

had three meals a day and people investing in them. The twice a day worship, excellent teaching and fine fellowship all made for a powerful week that changed some lives. **Six of the nine made a public profession that they had recommitted their lives to Jesus** and this was evident the first Sunday home as two of the young ladies raised their hands high in the air as they led our church family in worship. Please pray with us as they stand for Jesus saying YES to God and His plan for their lives in a very difficult place.”



## Open Churches

**Whitefish Community Church**, Pine River, MN  
**New Hope Community**, Sleepy Eye, MN  
**Sand Lake Alliance**, Spring Lake, MN  
**Redevelopment church**, Watertown, SD



## Dates to Remember

August 13	Leaders Who Last Workshop—Mercy Church, Sioux Falls, SD
August 16	Retired Workers BBQ—Rose Hill Alliance Church
August 22-25	New Official Workers Forum—Colorado Springs, CO
September 9	Tour orientation for C&MA International Workers—District Office
September 12	LO&CC—District Office
September 14	SE Minnesota Prayer Area visit by district staff—CCC Rochester
September 15	Metro NW Prayer Area—Nowthen Alliance Church
September 18	Living Hope Community Church—Huron, SD—75th Anniversary
September 19	South Dakota Prayer Area visit by district staff
September 20	Red River Valley Prayer Area visit by district staff—Hawley, MN
October 12-14	Church Planting Couples Retreat—St. Cloud, MN
October 28, 29	C&MA Men—2nd annual Leadership Roundtable Retreat at BSC