

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3 6:30 pm Flipside	4 7 pm Praise Team practice	5 7 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Hitting a Home-Run in Your Marriage	6 1 pm Women's Luncheon with Cynthia Heald
7 Fall Kickoff Begins 4 pm—5 pm AWANA registration	8	9	10 6:30 pm Flipside	11 7 pm Praise Team practice	12	13 9 am Flipside Garage Sale
14 Speaker: Brent Bogar No AWANA	15	16 7 pm—10 pm Home Again Ministries 7 pm General Board mtg.	17 6:30 pm Flipside	18 7 pm Praise Team practice	19	20 6:30 pm—9 pm Gerry Andersen Open House at Herr's
21 Speaker: Gerry Andersen 4 pm AWANA	22	23	24 6:30 pm Flipside	25 7 pm Praise Team practice	26	27
28 Speaker: Kevin Penner 4 pm AWANA	29	30				

A Free Voice

More than a vote

Report on the 2008

Leadership Conference

by Rev. Matt Mitchell

Pop quiz:

What was Conference about this year?

If you answered, "The Statement of Faith," then you'd be right. The 2008 EFCA Leadership Conference did include a historic vote on a revised Statement of Faith, following special sessions solely for discussing the proposed changes. After much deliberation, the delegates adopted the new Statement of Faith, with 86 percent indicating approval. (See www.efca.org/about/doctrine for more details.)

But this year's conference, held at First Evangelical Free Church of St. Louis County (Manchester, Mo.), included much more than deliberations and a decisive vote, however pivotal that is to the Evangelical Free Church of America. Attendees in St. Louis were also encouraged, equipped and inspired to join in the forward movement of the gospel among all people.

In his stirring conference address, President Bill Hamel called the EFCA to bold prayer: "Beloved, I don't know how much time we have left, but I think it's time that the Free Church increase its impact." He challenged EFCA leaders to pray for a 10-percent increase in the multiplication of healthy local churches and to join the leaders of ReachGlobal in praying for 100 million people to be touched by the gospel in the next 10 years.

Many of those people will speak Arabic. The conference included a special offering, raising more than \$12,000 for Middle East/North Africa (MENA), ReachGlobal's newest area of mission focus—reaching out to 19 countries with church planting, compassion, ministry to children, camping, and training of indigenous pastors and leaders.

All three main speakers challenged attendees to think of themselves as "resident

aliens"—cautious about getting too comfortable in this world while we work and wait for Christ's return. President Hamel emphasized that we won't live with a missional perspective until we remember that we don't belong here—as was obvious both to the movement's early Scandinavian forebears and to its current immigrants. "Can we really sing, 'This world is not my home,'" he asked, "when we're holding onto it so tightly? Too much of the world means too much to us."

Living uncomfortably in the world includes loving "our Samaria," a continuing theme from the 2007 conference, which was evident in the high-energy, multi-ethnic worship led by Sara Renner and the Elements.

"I am encouraged with the fact that we are really trying to bring all peoples together," says Lori Lambelet, district mobilizer for EFCA RESOUND Women's Ministries. "This has a lot of impact on my ministry back home in New Mexico."

The 1,048 conference attendees were treated to a panoply of training seminars, dinners, ministry display booths and special events to highlight what is going on through the mosaic of EFCA ministries.

This was the first conference for Brad and Joellen Binder, leaders at Cornerstone EFC in Annandale, Va. Brad said that he was privileged to be part of the Statement of Faith process, and so much more: "This is my first exposure at the national level to all the different resources available to the churches. This conference was great for seeing that those resources are there, doing the networking and making the connections."

Joellen agreed. She especially valued the opportunity to interview children's ministry leaders at the host church about how they reach and retain children in the faith. (As a church of 2300, First EFC ministers to an average of 750 children each week in its Kid Connection.)

EFCA leaders will meet again next year in Minneapolis, June 23-25. There may not be another historic decision in 2009, but these conferences are so much more than a vote...

FLIPSIDE

Pastor Shane Kroger



Well, our summer season is drawing to a close and a new school year is on us already. I really did appreciate our summer. Flipside was busy with events like Nationals, Mud Football, and Wed. Night Flipside. We, as a family, were able to get away a few times to enjoy some time together. Both Michele and I were able to see our folks and it had been awhile. The kids got to enjoy golfing, fishing, Chucky Cheese, and a Twins game. It really was a blessed time. When I came back home, I spent a lot of time watching the Olympics. I am not sure if that is of any interest to you all, but I am captivated by all the hype, patriotism, and athleticism. I am reminded though, that we serve a heavenly country (kingdom) with great pride, enthusiasm, and spirit. Unlike the earthly Olympic Games, Heaven will never pass away. All the gold metals of previous games will pave the streets of Heaven and Michael Phelps will come and go, but God will be forever!

Michele has been doing better these past weeks and our days of four children are fast coming to a close. Tirzah Michele Kroger will be here very soon, with a due date of Sept. 22nd. Everyone seems to be very healthy and we look forward to sharing her with all of you soon. Thanks for all of your prayers.

We continue to plug along with our Search Committee. We are at the stage of cutting down our candidates some more and will now start to set up phone interviews. We will be meeting again on Sept. 8th. Please continue to keep us all in prayer, as well as our new Sr. Pastor. Remember that Garth, Cami, Tia, Al, Boone, Brent, and myself serve on the Search Committee.

We do have our Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser coming up Sept. 13th. You can start dropping off your items at the church starting Sept. 8th. We will need parents and youth coming every night from 7pm until 10pm, Tue. through Friday. The sale will officially start at 9am until 3pm on the 13th, but I like to open for business by 8am. So please come by 7:30am. We will need pricers, sorters, cashiers, and bakers. We could use some cookies or bars to give away, as well as coffee, so if anyone is interested in helping out, it would be greatly appreciated.

Flipside is headed back to Cooperstown Autumatics again this year. It will be from Oct. 10th-12th. A \$50.00 deposit is required to hold your spot and it will need to be turned in by Sept. 14th. We always play some great games, have great speakers, and sing great worship songs. Sleeping in the cabins isn't bad either! Bonfires will be present, as well as roasting mallows. Total for the event will be \$85.

Also, sign up for next year's mission's trip is already taking place. Flipside will be working with Group Work Camps again and we will be heading off to the Lead/Deadwood, SD area (June 14-20). We will be doing construction like last time. This was an awesome trip and I for one am looking forward to it with our youth. Deposits of \$50.00 are needed to hold your spot and they are due Sept. 21st. Don't delay, there are less than 130 spots left!



EVERY DAY I COME HERE AND PRAY FOR A SIGN, BUT I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT I'M NEVER GOING TO GET ONE

LEFC Children's Ministries

I hope this finds you all full throttle into the school year and ready for fall. The season change is amazing, just like our God! I am so anxious for another year in CM. We have a great year planned for you again this year, with the kick-off being 9-7-2008.

We have been so blessed with new additions to our CM staff this year, and the return of our awesome staff from last year as well. I will be fine tuning the schedule this week and you will be getting a copy of it mid September.

Our surroundings are "Under the Sea" again this year, with our theme being "We meet under the ocean, surrounded by blue, we know God seas us; but, can we see Him too?"

I want to highlight all the blessing and creations God has provided for us in this next year. I think all of us could use a little "Attitude of Gratitude" and that is what our goal for this year will be.

Thank you for bringing your children to CM. They are a blessing to me, and without them I am less blessed. Please make God your priority this year as well. If God has shown me anything this year it is, when I wake to Heaven some day, I will not be asked "What did you do for the world?" I will be asked, "What did you do for me?"

Bless you---Bless you---Bless you!!!

Judy Vinger
Your Ecstatically Excited
Children's Ministries Director



Sept. 14
Sept. 21

No AWANA
Name Day- How did you get your name? Be ready to share at Council Time. Leaders please be at church by 3pm.

Sept. 28

Bible Day – Extra Awana bucks for bringing your Bible

I would like to thank everyone who will be helping with AWANA this year. Your willingness to take time out of your already full schedules is such an encouragement to me. Would all the leaders/listeners please come at 3 pm on September 21 so we can have a short meeting before the clubbers arrive?

Positions Still Available

Song Leader- The requirements for this position: 1.) is a Christian 2.) loves music and kids 3.) is willing to give 5-10 minutes each week to sing with a group of enthusiastic clubbers and leaders. CD's and songs provided.

Listener- The requirements for this position: 1.) is a Christian 2.) loves kids and fun 3.) is willing to give 1 hour each week. Positions are also available on a part-time basis: If you want to come once or twice a month as your schedule allows, we always have clubbers that could use help learning one more verse and having that positive interaction with an adult Christian.

Prayer Team- The requirements for this position: 1.) is a Christian 2.) believes in the power of prayer 3.) is willing to spend time each week praying for our ministry efforts, children, and leaders.

All of the above positions come with job appreciation, weeks and holidays off, and ETERNAL REWARDS. Please respond to Jackie Muller 701-694-3461 rjmuller@nccray.com

ATTENTION: Anyone who has a leader uniform that the church purchased and you are not using it, please return to Jackie ASAP.