



# The Congregational Ranger

Newsletter of The Fellowship of Northeast Congregational Christian Churches

Volume LI Issue 3

Autumn 2015

## 2015 Fall Gathering

We can't wait for you to come to the southeast corner of the state on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The people of Preston look forward to hosting the "Fall Gathering" of our churches.

We'll begin the afternoon with the usual Missionary Tea from 3 —4 P.M. It's a time to meet and greet old friends, and to discover some new ones, too! At 4, we'll gather in our recently renovated Sanctuary for worship and a hymn sing. Start thinking about your favorite hymn!

Following the singing, we'll have an open forum: "Let's Talk!" Clergy... What do you want your congregation to know?... Congregation... What do you want your Minister/Pastor to know? What makes for a great worship service? What touches you? What makes for a great sermon? What speaks to you? What interesting things are you doing in your church to attract and retain members? Is membership in a church really that important?

At 6 P.M. we'll gather downstairs in fellowship hall for a light supper, beverage, and dessert. We'll continue our - conversations with friends before heading home, grateful for our time together, as well as with "food for thought" for our individual churches.

I look forward to seeing you soon!  
Stan White, Host Pastor

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Norm's Sabbatical	2-3
Pastors and Pulpits	4
Deacon's Fall Initiatives	5
An Installation Service	5
Pastor's Corner	5
Summer Youth Camp—'15	6
Missions Projects	7
Spirit Warrior 2015 Men's Conference	8-10
Officers & Committees	11



## ***WHAT I LEARNED DURING MY SABBATICAL***

*By Rev. Norm Erlendson*

---

Pastoral leaves of two or three months after seven years of full-time service are a long standing Christian tradition with roots in Scripture. The principle of a Sabbath rest is enshrined in the Ten Commandments because God rested on the seventh day. After being on call 24X7 for seven years, a lengthy period of rest from the demands of church ministry comes as a welcome opportunity for a minister to be ministered to through activities that nourish his or her soul. It allows for uninterrupted family time and time alone to pray, reflect, read, write and pursue activities that recharge one's spiritual batteries. I was very grateful when Third Church granted me a sabbatical during July and August, and to the Northeast Fellowship for its grant program to help member churches cover the cost of pulpit supply during a sabbatical leave.

I looked forward to my sabbatical and did a lot of advance planning to gain the full benefit of it. My personal goal was to do all I could to make it a mountain-top experience. I wanted my sabbatical to be a space of time when I could accomplish some personal goals and refresh my soul by becoming:

- closer to God through study and reflection;
- closer to Barbara by spending quality time with her;
- closer to my congregation by rededicating myself to my pastoral work there.

Barbara and I made travel plans to visit historic sites for my research and travel to new places for our enjoyment. We also had plans to celebrate Barbara's birthday on Aug 4 at a special place in New Hampshire with my sister and her husband coming from Seattle to see us that week. A few weeks before it was all set to begin Barbara's cancer diagnosis hit us like a bolt out of the blue. It changed everything. We were no longer in charge of our plans, but come what may we were determined to go through this "adventure" together. There were tests and consults, and lots of waiting. We were hoping the surgery would be scheduled for the week of July 6 but it was scheduled for July 31 the very day we were planning to go to New Hampshire. The day of the surgery finally arrived and thankfully it went very well. After the surgery we had to stay in town so they could monitor her healing, and there was more waiting on test results to learn what follow up treatment will be necessary. Barbara says the tests and surgery were relatively easy. The waiting was the hardest part. As July gave way to August my sabbatical was turning out to be something quite different from what we had planned. I could almost say

## ***WHAT I LEARNED DURING MY SABBATICAL***

It was more valley than mountain top experience. But the amazing thing we now realize as we both look back at my sabbatical rest from ministry, it wasn't a time of discouragement and disappointment. My sabbatical truly turned out to be the mountain-top experience I had hoped for. It gave me everything I was originally looking forward to. In fact, not only were our prayers for good medical outcomes answered, but my goals for personal renewal were met more fully than I ever imagined.

- we are closer to each other by having gone through this trying experience together.
- we are closer to our congregation because of the many cards, letters and prayers that came to us, and what a source of encouragement they were and still are. Barbara also felt the care of the Fellowship churches and members through their cards. Visiting Fellowship churches and seeing her name on their prayer lists was very meaningful to her.
- we are closer to God because of answered prayers and the feeling of being cared for.

My sabbatical is now over. I am grateful for it and I feel refreshed. God didn't give me the sabbatical I planned for, but he gave me the sabbatical I needed. The timing of my sabbatical was perfect. The main spiritual lesson I learned from it is best illustrated from an obscure episode in Israel's history. Once a neighboring king waged war against Israel and was defeated. The next year he returned with an even larger army confident of victory because he told himself that Israel's God was a god of the mountains but not of the valleys. This time he would fight and defeat Israel on the lowlands where their god would be powerless to help them. Through a prophet God assured the king of Israel of victory over that king a second time to teach him and everyone a lesson: *The Lord is a God of both hills and valleys. He is ever-present wherever we are, and even a trek through a shadowed valley can be a mountain top experience when God is with us.*

Blessings to all  
Pastor Norm Erlendson



## A GREETING

---

A greeting ---my name is Ron Thompson. I was elected and called as the new settled Minister at the Westchester Congregational Church in Westchester, Connecticut in July 2015.

I moved to Westchester after serving for fifteen years in various capacities at three large congregations in the Naples, Florida area. My most recent call was as Associate Minister at the United Church of Marco Island, Florida which was a UCC/NACCC congregation. I finished Lexington Theological Seminary's new online Certificate of Ministry Program in June of 2015.

The Marco Island Congregation ordained me, as I graduated and sought a call here in the Northeast. I was born in Willimantic, Connecticut, and left in 1978 with the US Navy Submarine Service staying in warmer climates most of my life.

After the Navy, I had a lengthy career in banking in Los Angeles, California, where I met my wife Kristy who is from Portland, Oregon. We relocated to Naples, Florida in 2000 with my daughter Katianne, where I co-owned a restaurant. Feeling the call to ministry intensify, my church work grew to full time in Christian Education where I served youth and young families, while attending seminary.

I have had a desire to return to New England for several years and was just afraid of the cold. We contacted the Westchester Church late in 2014 and began the discernment process. I have family in Franklin and West Hartford who suggested we fly up in March 2015 with 6 feet of snow on the ground. We still felt God's call despite the snow and after being elected by the congregation in July moved with my wife, daughter and two grandchildren ages 6 and 8 who have never seen snow to the wonderful parsonage here.

I am pleased to serve "back home" and have a strong desire to see churches work closer together, while being involved in the community as a Pastor. I am volunteering at the local Colchester school district in special education. I have a passion for youth ministry and am working on joining the local volunteer fire department as an actual fire fighter recruit, with a future goal to become the Fire Chaplain. Missions are another one of my passions, and helping with the pressing local mission needs is on my list of goals.

It is an honor to serve in a small town church that wants to grow and change. Working with the FNCCC and other churches in the fellowship is vital for our future together. I look forward to meeting many of you as we serve together. I am 55 years young, full of energy and enthusiasm looking for what new thing God will do in our midst.

## Deacon's Fall Initiatives

By Sue Sullivan

The Congregational Church of Salem

The Board of Deacons is privileged to serve in our church. This is accomplished in a variety of ways and the scope of service is directed to the giftedness of each Deacon. The process of linking our God given gifts and skills allows us to serve God in a way which is sensitive to His leading and our giftedness. Our current areas of focus include the following ministries:

**Contact Ministries:** monthly connecting with our families to determine needs and hear prayer concerns.

**Benevolence Fund Administration:** distributing those funds to people in need.

**Preparation & Care of the Implements of Worship & Sacrament of Communion:** Preparing Communion and helping the Elders, serve it to the Congregation.

**Caring Ministries:** Some deacons identify and coordinate a variety of ministries of encouragement according to his or her gift. Some examples:

**Card ministry** to acknowledge special events (birthdays, anniversaries).

**Meals ministry** to assist those who are ill or in recovery.

**Bereavement ministry** includes the sending of flowers and the arrangement of receptions following funerals and memorial services.

**Local Outreach:** contacting Outreach and Community Services seeking to involve our Congregation in helping Examples: Soup Kitchens, Crisis Pregnancy centers, Food Pantries, Thrift Shops.

## An Installation Service

You are invited to attend the Installation Service of Reverend Ron Thompson, on Sunday, November 8th at 3 pm at Westchester Congregational Church, 95 Cemetery Rd, in Colchester, CT  
Dinner following  
Please RSVP by October 18  
860-267-0480

## Pastor's Corner

New seasons begin for us all. Summer is over (even though the temperatures would have us believe differently) - children are back in school, there is the beginning of color in the leaves and the days grow shorter. Soon we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas and the early forecast is for another snowy winter.

Many of us face changes of seasons in our personal lives as well. In the midst of change there is one constant - God. Scripture tells us that God is unchanging. As you face change and transition - hold on to that truth - "God is the same; yesterday, today and forever!"

Blessings to all!

Pastor Gail  
Riverpoint Congregational Church  
West Warwick, Rhode Island

## Summer Youth Camp – '15

### LoveStrong - Wrap-Up Report

We know it is Fall in New England but our hearts drift back to Summer '15 and our vision is cast toward Summer '16. Our Summer Youth Camp Experience in 2015 was remarkable. We were able to focus on and be impacted by our theme "LoveStrong". What this does is create in each of us an intense passion and desire for Summer Youth Camp '16. We know that we are not suppose to rush through life and we are to take each day one at a time...but we can't help it. We love Summer Youth Camp! There is no way to describe this spiritual and emotional longing that lives deep within each camper and staff.

Each year at Summer Youth Camp we have been able to build on the foundation of previous years. From Fishers Island to Singing Hills, God has and continues to reveal Himself to us fresh and new each year. In 2014 we each experienced a blessing in a way that we could not imagine that it could be replicated nor should it. This past year in 2015 something completely unexpected happened. The Holy Spirit was able to bring the 2014 experience forward to 2015. It was evident from the moment we arrived at Singing Hills. You could feel the spiritual energy calling each one of us to continue our growth in love for the Lord and for each other. Immediately you could sense that our youth and staff had been praying, anticipating, and expecting God to continue the work He had started in years past. On our first night at worship our Praise Team led us in our 2014 theme song "Oceans-where feet may fail", and it was on. Campers and staff were arm and arm connecting, focusing, praising, and worshipping. It was unlike any first night we have ever had. God is so good! Even our first timers were swept up in the spirit and immediately felt included and touched.

In 2015 we built on the walking deeper, growing deeper, and trusting deeper lessons of 2014 and we focused on "LoveStrong". We used the song from Hillsong United "Love Is War" as our theme song. It became a foundation to guide us into many amazing moments of realizing that Love is difficult. Love requires that we love God first and then love those He loves. What made that such a wonderful discovery is that we learned that loving someone does not mean that you have to always agree with them...or you have to always like what they are doing or the way they do something...or if they do not love you back or want to love you back. There is a line in the song that reminds us that "We must fight for Love...". God fights for us every day. He never gives up on us. He always loves us. He always will love us. That is who God is...God is Love. We realized that if we were going to be relevant and make a difference in this world today, we would have to love like God loves. We discovered...that is something that is easier to say than to do.

So in the midst of Summer Youth Camp with all the activities, fellowship, fun, and friends, God continues to be the focal point. Whether it is amazing crafts; creative drama; challenging games; uplifting Devotions; Testimonies, and Bible Times; awesome Music; or just hanging out with friends...God shows up and we are blessed. "LoveStrong" was a powerful theme with an important life lesson for 2015 and years to come.

Make sure that you get a copy of the 2015 Summer Youth Camp DVD which will be available at the Fall Meeting and that you check us out on our Facebook page Singing Hills Summer Youth Camp. As always you can just give one of us a call. We love talking about camp.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each Fellowship Church and Member for all of your prayers, love, and support. It does not go unnoticed how important each of you is to the Camp Ministry. As staff and campers, we recognize how much of a financial commitment you are making for camp. I can assure you that it is money well invested. It is money wisely invested in the young hearts and souls of our Congregational Youth and staff; and money wisely invested in the future of our Congregational Churches. It is critical that we continue to do all that we can to stay connected with this generation. I know that we are a Mission Minded Fellowship. I can assure you that there is no greater Mission for us than to continue to support our own young people.

As you probably can sense, the Camp Staff is passionate about reaching this generation for Christ. The Camp Staff has already begun praying and planning for Summer Youth Camp '16. May each of us continue to pray that God's Spirit will lead us as we serve Him in this vital Ministry. May we know Christ and Make Him Known!

For more information, please contact:

Sr. High Camp Pastor/Director	Pastor Lee Edwards	860-884-7573
Jr. High Camp Pastor/Director	Pastor Irv Gammon	413-584-1325
Camp Administrator	Karen Edwards	860-889-6503

~~~~~ MISSIONS PROJECTS ~~~~~

*103 churches were canvassed by the Iowa-Nebraska host committee of the NACCC 2014, to discover what other churches are doing in their churches for mission projects. We will be bringing you their responses as a regular feature of the Ranger.*

JUNIPER FIRST CHURCH

Juniper, Florida:

Gleaning

The church members go into the vegetable fields and pick what remains of the vegetable crop so that they can share with the local food bank.

CENTER CONG'L CHURCH

Atlanta, Georgia

Coins for Christ:

Plastic containers are given out at worship and people save money to be used in local and foreign missions.

One year recently \$5,000 was collected for this use.

NORTH MANCHESTER CONG'L CH.

North Manchester, Illinois

Mission Manchester:

Working on community clean-up, repairs for widowers, section 8 housing repairs and work with single teen moms.

## Ministry Report From Pastor Toby Quirk, New Boston Congregational Church

Spirit Warrior 2015 Men's Conference  
US Military Base, Yongsan, South Korea  
September 18-19, 2015  
"Men Don't Retreat in Battle"

An old army buddy, Chuck Stecker, Director of "A Chosen Generation", a national ministry teaching strategies for the intergenerational church, invited me to be the keynote speaker at an annual men's conference in South Korea on September 18-19. I enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to minister God's Word and God's love to our military warriors serving in a critical outpost facing down an unpredictable, unstable enemy—North Korea.

Since the conclusion of the Korean Conflict, US Forces have been posted in South Korea as a deterrent, successfully preventing an incursion from the north. Yongsan is the largest US installation, where the headquarters of US Forces, Korea and Eighth US Army have their headquarters, thirty miles south of the demilitarized zone (DMZ), the most heavily guarded border in the world. As recently as August this year North Korean soldiers planted an antipersonnel mine in the southern sector of the DMZ and two Republic of Korea (ROK) troopers were critically injured. The South Korean/US response was a barrage of propaganda via loudspeakers aimed at the North Korean Army. The North responded with an artillery barrage aimed at an unpopulated area of the DMZ.

Tensions in South Korea were heightened when the Supreme Leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un announced that he was reopening a nuclear reactor and he had improved his capabilities to launch a warhead in a missile.

My host for the trip, Men's Director, Tommy Kramer, informed me that the theme for the two-day conference was "Men Don't Retreat in Battle". The Holy Scriptures are replete with references to spiritual warfare, and for any Christian believer the conflict between the forces of light waging war against the forces of darkness is clearly a reality, not merely a parable or a metaphor. In the minds of our modern day warriors, these scriptures are all the more compelling.

The weeks before departing my home in Nahant, Mass. I spent hours in prayer and meditation, seeking the Spirit of God for instruction and equipment to accomplish the mission He had assigned to me. I felt God leading me to gather plenty of content for the four plenary sessions, and arrange that content in modules, so I would be able to organize each message in response to the needs of my audience.

If I understood the "voice" of God, I felt that He was saying, "Receive my wisdom and my grace before you attempt to achieve anything in My Kingdom."



After a long journey from Boston's north shore to Seoul, South Korea, my first encounter with the "Men of the Morning Calm" was a morning Bible study in a restaurant in the hotel where I was staying on Thursday morning, the day before my event would start. I met eight men, all leaders of military units or sections, some military, some civilians and all dedicated to a life of service to their country and their Lord. The study from 2 Kings, chapter 22 was a lesson about King Joash, who trusted his God, Jehovah, and lived a life of blessing. Trusting God: the key to all my prayerful meditations and the foundation of all four of my sermons for "Spirit Warrior".

That night I attended a workshop for music ministers, given by an amazing musician, song writer and Bible teacher, Danny Byram. He explained the essentials of sacred music and how God loves authentic worship from His children. Danny became my "battle buddy" as we co- led the conference.

Friday night was our first plenary session at the South Chapel, Yongsan Military Base. The men and their wives were in attendance. My topic was: SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS A REALITY.

"Our spiritual battle," I said, "is often waged in the midst of those with whom we treasure close, loving relationships. Relationships like comrades-in-arms, workplace associates, friends and family members."

We all know that our closest friends and loved-ones can cause us the most emotional harm because we love them so dearly. So I presented two weapons for victory in this close-in battle:

- 1) The Grace of God received in morning reflection and meditation.
- 2) The power of immediate forgiveness.

Saturday morning after breakfast, the Men of the Morning Calm and I uncovered God's Word together in Session No.2 about Courage. From the Book of Joshua, a military commander, having taken over leadership at the death of Moses, receives from God the command to "Take Courage!" Then as Commander Joshua succeeds in his first battle at Jericho, experiencing a miraculous siege of a walled fortress city, without sword or bow, but simply obeying God and marching around the wall. Then Joshua experienced defeat in the first battle of Ai because he neglected to consult with God. He failed in battle because he failed in prayer. In his arrogance, he launched ahead on his own initiative, attacked Ai and suffered a humiliating retreat across the desert. Repenting, he sought the Lord, received specific divine instructions and executed a complicated attack plan carefully laid out by God Himself. Then Joshua, having courage born of dependence on God, trust in God and obedience to God, won the victory and gave glory to God.

Lesson: when you trust God and obey His voice, He imbues you with courage, and you will have victory. When you don't you won't.

Session No. 3 emphasized the difficulty that military men (and many men of many occupations) have when the source of their identity is challenged. When a man is proud of his military service or his job as a firefighter or policeman or fisherman or corporate leader, and that occupation is taken from him through disability, retirement or business failure, his identity is challenged. In the book of Daniel, a multi-talented handsome young Israelite is captured with his countrymen, transported to a foreign land and enslaved. Most men would have been devastated because everything that defined his identity was violently, ruthlessly stripped from him. But not Daniel. He refused to eat at King Nebuchadnezzar's table, but opted to take only simple nutrition and live a simple life. He maintained his dignity and his identity because his identity was not dependent on any man-centered value, but only on the Lord his God. His entire life was characterized by exceptional wisdom and strong leadership, all inspired by divine grace and power.

The men in that room agreed that they would purpose in their hearts to push in to God's Word, God's discipline and His grace to strengthen their identity as a child of God, not as a military warrior. So that on the day when they would leave their chosen profession, they would not be susceptible to the forces that drive men to despondency and alcohol and drugs and violence.

Session No. 4 was pleasantly and blessedly unpredictable. Although I had prepared a "brilliant" concluding address, God moved on us to spend this remaining time together by allowing His presence to fill the room and fill our hearts. I gave a short summary of the preceding three sessions and opened the Bible to Luke 9:1 where Jesus gave his disciples the charge to go and drive out demons and cure diseases. Just prior to that He showed them how to do it by driving out a demon called "Legion" from a demoniac, healed a woman simply by her touching the hem of his garment and raising an apparently dead girl to life.

Then we prayed. We prayed for a rededication to Jesus, for stronger faith, for more love in our hearts for our families and workmates, for healing of injuries, diseases and emotional trauma. We prayed and God displayed his presence and power.

So as I reflect on this ministry trip, I am extremely grateful to Chuck Stecker, who made the connection for me, Tommy Kramer who planned and ran the conference, all the warriors who participated with me and mostly in our loving, graceful Lord, Jesus Christ. To Him all glory and power.

Testimony from one of the organizers:

"Toby rocked Spirit Warrior men and women last night. All the ladies walked away with a Danny Byram CD. Men walked away SW shirt and a Spiritual Book of their choice. 12 ladies also got a door prize. Best gift was Toby's message on relationships!!!!!"

Testimony from one of the warriors in attendance:

"I'm sure you get many emails regarding the positive affect you've had on peoples lives, but I want to at least Thank You for being here, spreading God's word, and having a impact on so many of us...."

"Well, because you talked about it, it was like the Lord had spoken to me. He was telling me: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10/11

This is now my ethos. I will continue my daily walk and use this as my guide. The armor of God will be my strength to be the man I want to be.

# OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Listed below are the nominated officers and standing committee members of the Fellowship and Ecclesiastical Society for the current fiscal year.

If anyone wishes to contact the committees directly, please call or email the office in Hartford for contact information.

Moderator:

Rev. Dr. Irv Gammon

Assistant Moderator:

Karen Reich

2nd Asst. Moderator:

Rev. Dr. Steve Blackburn

Retiring Moderator:

Rev. Kevin Smail

Executive Secretary:

Barbara Erlendson

Recording Secretary:

Rev. Norm Erlendson

Asst. Rec. Secretary:

Rev. Karen Roy

Fellowship Treasurer:

Rev. Dr. Steven Blackburn

Asst. Fell. Treasurer:

Rev. Bobbie Chapman

Eccl. Society Treasurer:

Douglas Loux

Asst. Eccl. Society Treasurer:

Rev. Iven Gammon

Pastoral Relations:

Rev. Norm Erlendson, Rev. Paul Ricard, Wendell Ritchie

Personnel:

Rev. Dr. Steve Blackburn, Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Rev. Dr. Irv Gammon, Rev. Rae Munsell, Rev. Kevin Smail

Youth & Fellowship:

Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Karen Edwards, Rev. Lee Edwards, Barbara Erlendson, Rev. Norm Erlendson, Brenda Gammon, Rev. Iven Gammon, Anna Gobar, Douglas Loux, Karen Reich.

President, Congregational Women:

Open to appointment.

Budget & Investments Committee:

Rev. Dr. Steven Blackburn, Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Rev. Norm Erlendson, Rev. Irv Gammon, Rev. James Hill, Jr, Douglas Loux, Rev. Dr. Ken Wildrick.

Church Assistance & Development Committee:

Rev. Lee Edwards, Rev. Ron Lake, Douglas Loux, Rev. Kevin Smail, Rev. Stan White.

Church Services Committee:

Rev. Jim DiQuattro, Rev. Norm Erlendson, Kay Page Greaser, Corrine Sternberg

Nominating Committee:

Rev. Dr. Steve Blackburn, Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Rev. Norm Erlendson, Karen Reich, VACANCY

Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Membership Committee:

Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Brenda Gammon, Karen Reich, Rev. Stan White

Ad Hoc Investment Committee:

Rev. Dr. Steve Blackburn, Rev. James Hill, Jr, Kim Kennedy, Douglas Loux

Ad Hoc By-Law Committee:

Sandy Dudek, Rev. Norm Erlendson, Kay Page Greaser, Rev. Rae Munsell

*The Fellowship of Connecticut Congregational Christian Churches, now known as the Fellowship of **Northeast Congregational Christian Churches** was formally organized in 1958 when, at its first annual meeting, the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The purpose of the Fellowship, as summarized by its first Moderator, Dr. Henry David Gray, is to "serve the churches and act as the agent of the churches in their cooperative work and witness of Christ."*

*The membership of The Northeast Fellowship has grown to 44 churches from not only Connecticut, but also Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey. Our members are old (1670) and new (2014), formal and informal, traditionalists and progressives.*

*Support of our member churches takes many forms, including financial assistance, pastoral placement services, youth activities, visioning seminars and bi-annual gatherings to conduct the Fellowship's business and to share news and information between member churches*

*The Congregational Ranger, the newsletter of the Northeast Fellowship, is published to foster communication among Fellowship churches, members, and friends. All members are invited to submit articles for publication. Please mail or call church-related news, happenings, events to:*

The Northeast Fellowship  
277 Main St, Hartford, CT 06106  
860-527-7001

-OR- email to: [connfell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:connfell@sbcglobal.net)

The *Ranger* may also be viewed on the Fellowship's website at  
[www.ctfellowship.com](http://www.ctfellowship.com)

**REMEMBER~~**

***Pray for our Fellowship, our churches, our  
pastors and people***