



**CONVERGE**  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

EQUIP • ENGAGE • EXPAND

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► **Mark Your Calendars:**

**2009**

**Rocky Mountain Prayer Summits**

**October 5th—**

Rock Creek Church, Boulder, CO

**October 6th—**

Cheyenne Hills Church, Cheyenne WY

**Converge2Equip**

**November 14th**

Cheyenne Hills Church, Cheyenne, WY

**2010**

**Converge2Equip training event**

**March 6th—**

Loveland, CO

**Converge Worldwide Biennial**

**June 30—July 2nd**

Tech Center Marriott, Denver, CO

# CONNECTION

A new Converge Rocky Mountain ministry adventure...

## “The Utah Initiative”

### Reaching an unreached people group in our own backyard

Utah is the most unchurched region in the United States. It is 97-98% unchurched with 60% of the population following the teachings of the Mormon church. Utah is also the fastest growing state in the country with millions expected to relocate to Provo, Salt Lake City and Ogden over the next 20 years. There is a tremendous need for more Christ-centered, Bible believing churches. Currently towns of 20,000-30,000 people do not have one evangelical congregation. God has gripped the hearts of Converge Rocky Mountain leaders with the tremendous spiritual need in Utah.

“The Utah Initiative” is a vision to plant five new churches in Utah over the five years: four Anglo and one Latino congregation. Funds contributed to the “Utah Initiative” will be divided up among the two current church plants as needed and also used to prepare the way for three more churches to follow. Your support for the “Utah Initiative” can take place through



prayer, financial contributions, and also participation. These new churches provide excellent opportunities for cross-cultural summer mission trips, VBS or backyard Bible clubs. Take a look at page 7 to get to know the Pankratzs and the Hills-two courageous Converge Rocky Mountain missionary families leading the way in reaching Utah for God's Kingdom. ■



# Equipping our people...internally strong congregations

## Your Church Needs More and Better Leaders

**Leadership matters.** Leadership matters in businesses, communities, our nation, and our churches. I'm so convinced of the significance of both the church and leadership that, for several years now, I've directed energy to the ministry of developing church leaders.

How important is leadership in the church? Bill Hybels wrote, "The local church is the hope of the world and its future rests primarily in the hands of its leaders" (*Courageous Leadership*). Dr. Paul D. Borden affirmed this when he asserted, "Effective congregations—defined by the ability to fulfill the Great Commission—have outstanding leaders" (*Direct Hit*). Still not



convinced? Maybe you'll agree with Herb Miller: "Leadership is not everything in growing a congregation, but it is something without which little else happens" (*The Parish Paper*). Given this reality, almost all churches need and want more and better leaders. I believe the quality and quantity of your church's leaders are essential for at least three reasons.

**First**, if you want to expand your ministries, you'll need to multiply equipped leaders. Warren Wiersbe said that "Ministry happens when divine resources meet human needs through loving people to the glory of God." When you're in the ministry business of meeting all kinds of needs, most especially spiritual needs, you never run out of "clients" or work. Your church, however, cannot add more ministries to meet the needs of your growing membership without increasing its leadership base.

Undoubtedly, your community has problems God has commissioned your church to meet in Jesus' name—

otherwise, God wouldn't have raised up your church in your locale. You can't hope to present a greater witness in your community through creative doors of service without leaders who step up to the plate to make that happen. Since leaders have limits, there's only so much ministry one person can or should be expected to do. Unless you're willing for your church to plateau or decline, your church needs more and better leaders.

**Second**, if you want to prevent burning out current leaders, you'll need to multiply equipped leaders. Your church risks exhausting its current leaders unless it keeps enlarging its base of equipped leaders. Even great leaders sometimes need a sabbatical or have good reasons for scaling back involvement for a time. Your church also may lose leadership through moves out of your church or community. A church dare not hazard overworking current leaders by expecting them to pick up the slack caused by leadership burn out or attrition. This doesn't honor leaders or God.

**Third**, if you want to reach the world for Christ, you'll need to multiply equipped leaders. Jesus issued the Great Commission to every church, including yours. Your church has an obligation to make an impact globally. That's non-negotiable if yours is a Bible-believing-and-following church.

So, your church needs to equip more leaders committed to Christ's Great Command to love and Christ's Great Commission to go make disciples of all nations. The hope of a lost world rests heavily on church leaders.

**Converge** Rocky Mountain has asked me to serve as a consultant to churches wanting to raise up more and better leaders to maximize their kingdom fruitfulness. I would count it a privilege to help your church multiply equipped leaders. ■

For more information, contact Kate in the CRM office. 303.953.7162

**Contributed by Mrs. Pamela Hoover Heim, Director of Leadership Development—Converge Rocky Mountain.**



# Converge Rocky Mountain Needs Your Financial Partnership

RMBC/Converge Rocky Mountain, like many of you, is currently negotiating difficult financial challenges. The good news is that ministry provided to and through our partner churches continues to increase. The challenging news is that we have had to make dramatic cutbacks in our staffing and the financial support of vital ministries. So how can we reverse this trend?

In the past, we have only called on partner churches to contribute more to our shared mission. But churches alone cannot provide all the funding necessary to properly equip our people, engage our cultures and expand our impact through new churches. We also need individuals, just like you, to partner with us and

invest in the great mission of transforming lives and communities in the Rocky Mountain West. To continue to move full speed ahead in ministry we are

asking the Lord to provide fifty people who will invest \$100 a month in RMBC/Converge Rocky Mountain ministry. We also need one hundred people who will invest \$25-50 a month. A response card will soon be arriving in your mail box. Please pray about becoming a partner in reaching the Rockies for Christ. These are challenging financial times, but if we partner together and trust in God, we

will see Him accomplish amazing things. Thanks for your generous support of our shared mission. ■

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## Converge2Equip

One of the priorities of Converge Rocky Mountain is to help every ministry leader in every partner congregation be well-equipped to serve in their area of ministry focus. To better understand the needs of our leaders, CRM ministry consultants have distributed an online survey to gather information. That survey is now being followed up with a face-to-face meeting with as many leaders as possible.

The first regional meeting was held at The Rock of Southwest on September 28th from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM. The northern network will meet November 14th from 10 AM through lunch at Cheyenne Hills Church (Lunch Provided). Pastors are encouraged to attend the meetings with their leaders. These face-to-face gatherings will give lay leaders a chance to express real ministry needs and interact on how

we can work together to address those needs. There will also be a helpful leader nugget from Pamela Hoover Heim. Currently, consulting teams are available in these areas: Worship, Children, Youth, Women, Senior Adults, Missions, Adminis-

tration, and Finances. We are hoping to also form teams for Prayer, Technology, Men and CommunityLife/Small Groups.

Pray that God will raise up leaders. We are stronger as we partner together in all areas of ministry! ■



# Second Half For Him...

## Pastor Ed Leaves A Powerful Ministry Legacy



Pastor Ed Nelson went to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 13, 2009. He was 95 years old and left a long legacy of faithful service to the Lord He loved.

Over several decades of ministry Pastor Ed served as a local church pastor. He taught at Vancouver Bible College and was also National Director of Evangelism for the Baptist General Conference. From 1963-1987 Pastor Ed served as the Executive Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Baptist Conference. Under Pastor Ed's leadership 19 new churches were organized.

He physically helped construct six church buildings and resurrected many church congregations. Pastor

Ed was also instrumental in the purchase of Camp Meadowdale. Upon retirement from the RMBC, Pastor Ed went on to serve as Interim Pastor in six more congregations. Most recently he was still leading a weekly Bible study in his apartment complex. This great man of God will long be remembered for His passion to bring people to Christ and to motivate the churches of our district to work together for the greater good of God's Kingdom. Please keep Pastor Ed's wife, Dorothy and his children in your prayers.



## The Barn Was Packed!

On Saturday, August 15th, Ron Lewis' barn in Evergreen was filled with enthusiastic worshippers. For almost two hours the strains of powerful hymns filled the rafters and overflowed out into the mountainous countryside. Don Emmons (from Mission Hills) led the worship time from his keyboard...even navigated an unforgettable rendition of the Hallelujah chorus! A tasty potluck followed with a little buffalo, baked beans, potato salad and dessert. The Second Half for Him team did an excellent job providing this event for our partner churches.



## Tuttle Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Dean Tuttle from Bethel Baptist Church in Greeley is being recognized by the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends in the Blindness Field for extraordinary achievement in



his field. The Hall of Fame "is dedicated to preserving, honoring, and promoting the tradition of excellence manifested by the specific individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame and through the history of outstanding services provided to people who are blind or visually impaired" ([www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)). Two of the many reasons Dean is being honored include his textbook, *Self-Esteem and Adjusting with Blindness* that he co-wrote with his wife Naomi, and the excellence in which he has served in his capacity as a faculty member at the University of Northern Colorado. There he has "created one of the finest, most respected teacher preparation centers in visual impairment in the country" ([www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)). Dean recalls that when he was first told of his nomination into the Hall of Fame, he had three reactions: the first was disbelief, then, "to God be the glory – great things He has done," and that he never could have done it without his wife Naomi. Dean's own blindness has enabled him to provide insight into teaching and working with the blind that would be otherwise unattainable. The Tuttle's serve on the Converge Rocky Mountain Second Half For Him consulting team. Many have enjoyed their gifts of hospitality, leadership and laughter.

Congratulations, Dean!

## New Converge Rocky Mountain Pastors:

### The Irvines Ride into Estes Park

In May of this year, Hal Irvine, a Converge pastor through and through, became the Senior Pastor of Mountain View Bible Fellowship in Estes Park, Colorado. Pastor Hal has attended Moody Bible Institute, Trinity Theological Seminary, and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Before moving to Colorado, Pastor Hal pastored a Converge church in Montana for nine years, and before that, he was at an Alaskan Converge church.

He and his wife Karen have been married for 21 years, and their son Billy is 15. Their other son Andy passed away two years ago in a rafting accident.

Pastor Hal has lived an exciting life of jumping out of airplanes in the army and serving as a chaplain with the fire department. These days, you might see Hal riding around the roads of Estes Park on his



motorcycle, and Karen will probably be right beside him on her scooter.

Mountain View Bible Fellowship is on the journey to discovering how God wants to use their congregation in their community, but Pastor Hal is confident that the Lord will use their church to reach the people of Estes Park. They desire to be Jesus to the world around them.

Welcome Irvine family!

### The Clarks Come to Conference Baptist Church

Pastor Jeff Clark is the new Senior Pastor for Conference Baptist Church in Evergreen, Colorado! Pastor Jeff came to know Christ as his Savior at the age of 17 when five Christians he met started taking him to church. Ever since then, he has been interested in nothing else but finding ways to serve the Lord, preach, and do discipleship. God led Pastor Jeff to Talbot School of Theology at Biola, where he received his M.Div. and Th.M. He went on to plant a church in Frazier Park, California, from 1988-1993.



Pastor Jeff then transitioned to a church in Hemet, California, for 16 years before coming to Colorado. Pastor Jeff and his wife Mary have been married for 21 years, and have three children: Kelly (19), John (16), and David (13).

The heart's desire of Pastor Jeff is to see Conference Baptist Church do all things to the glory of God. He believes that we glorify the Lord when we enjoy Him. Our interior life, which consists of our heart, disposition, emotions and attitude, are central in our ability to glorify God. Pastor Jeff is looking forward to being a faithful pastor and teacher at Conference Baptist Church

Welcome Clark family!

### Creekside Church Welcomes the Weidmanns

Pastor Josh Weidmann is the new Teaching Pastor for Creekside Church in Centennial, Colorado. Josh grew up in Littleton, Colorado, and began his itinerate ministry while he was in high school, as a result of



the Columbine tragedy. Young people around the country were eager to hear about the hope they could find in Christ after such a horrific incident. Josh went on to study at Moody Bible Institute, which prepared him for the Youth Pastor position at Harvest Bible Chapel in Illinois. Desiring to move back to Colorado, Josh served as an Associate Pastor at Colorado Community Church in Englewood for two years before accepting his new role at Creekside. After an extended, long-distance relationship, Josh and his wife Molly were married in April of this year. They both feel the call on their hearts for ministry and are excited to begin this new chapter of their lives at Creekside Church.

Josh's desire as the Teaching Pastor is simple: preach God's Word to God's people. He wants to instill in the congregation that we can experience and express the supremacy of Christ in all things

Welcome Weidmanns!

## Engaging Our Culture ... externally focused congregations

### Actions Speaking Louder Than Words at Bethany

The economic meltdown has affected everyone, hitting some much harder than others. Marilyn, a faithful woman in her late 50's who has served the church with devotion and passion for more than 20 years, is one of its victims. Her husband Ron was diagnosed with aggressive cancer three years ago. In answer to decades of prayers and love, Ron came to Christ soon after the diagnosis and grew quickly into a strong Christian. He died nearly a year later. Marilyn was left with their small business and a mountain of medical bills. She took the reins of their business, working hard to make it a success. The economy hit the business like a freight train, and Marilyn began to struggle severely. Always one to serve rather than be served, she kept her struggle to herself until it became too much to bear. She came to the church to ask for prayer and whatever the church benevolence fund could spare. As Administrative Pastor Matt Patrick spoke and prayed with Marilyn, it became clear that she was about to lose her business, her home and her hope.

We launched into action. We asked Marilyn to bring in all her bills and asked if she would mind if we brought her need before the congregation. Although it was humbling for her, she agreed. We were in a sermon series on the book of Acts. The text was Acts 2:42-47, describing the radical love and generosity of the early church. At the end of the message, I shared that Jesus had given us an opportunity to live out this Scripture. I asked Marilyn



to stand with me, and as she bowed her head and wept, I described Marilyn's dire situation and reminded the congregation of how the early church met each other's needs, and how the body of Christ is called to be the husband to the widow. We prayed. We invited. We responded.

We put collection plates on the altar for those who wanted to pray and give. We also had cards, each one representing one of Marilyn's bills. We invited people to take one as their own, and to be responsible for paying it (they left a copy of the bill they took with their name on it in the offering plate). A CPA came up and said that he would like to work with Marilyn at no cost, for as long as it takes to organize her finances and to coordinate a plan to help bring her out of this trial. We sang and praised God for giving us the gift of a chance to truly be His Body. At the end of the service, all the bills had been taken, and there were cash gifts in the offering plates.

On Monday, people who had taken the bills began filing into the church with cash and checks, so the church

could pay the bills. This gave us the ability to track the support, relative to her needs, and make sure everything was handled in the best way possible. Money kept coming in. At our softball game Tuesday night, a college student handed me her paycheck, two weeks' wages from cleaning hotel rooms, to be added to Marilyn's fund. To date, nearly \$35,000 has been given over and above the tithes and offerings of our modest church to help Marilyn. We will continue as long as needed. The church is now asking, "Who is next?" What a beautiful question. Jesus is leading. His grace is pouring out. The Spirit is moving. We're gradually being transformed to look more like the early church and our Savior, and God is getting all the glory. We wouldn't have it any other way. ■

**Contributed by  
Pastor Tom  
Burggraf,  
Bethany Baptist  
Gunnison, CO**



## Expand our redemptive impact by launching new churches

The Converge Rocky Mountain **“Utah Initiative”** is becoming a reality through the investment of partner churches and strategic connections with other ministries. Converge USA, Vision 360, K2 Church and South Mountain Church in Salt Lake City are helping out with funding and coaching. Converge churches in Minnesota and Northern California are also partnering with us. More partners are still needed to reach our goal. Pray about you or your church making a significant financial contribution to this exciting mission adventure. Contact the district office for more information. [kate@rmbc.com](mailto:kate@rmbc.com) 303.953.7162

### **Pankratz Family Building “The Bridge” in Salt Lake City!**

A few months ago Loren and Carrie Pankratz received a top recommend at the Converge USA planting assessment. The assessors were excited about Loren’s leadership gifts and their passion for the people of Utah.

The Pankratz’s have been married for six years and have two sons, Elijah (2) and Asher (1). Loren received his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and is currently in his last year of studies for his Doctorate of Ministry at Talbot Theological Seminary.

Loren and Carrie responded to God’s call to enter full-time ministry five years ago when Loren became the College Pastor at New Covenant Community Church in Fresno, California. While there, he led several short-term mission trips into Utah where his students shared the essentials of their Christian faith with residents who didn’t hold those same beliefs. During those trips,



God called the Pankratz’s to plant churches in Utah. They saw great need with only 250 churches in the state and only 2% of the population being evangelical Christian, qualifying the state of Utah as an unreached people group, in fact,

### **The Hills are Alive... in Utah!**

Charles and Tiffany Hill moved to Utah in August to begin preparing for the Converge church they will be planting there next year. Charles formerly worked as a police officer in Columbus, Ohio. One day, while performing CPR on a dying young man who was pleading for God to save his life, Charles felt called to ministry. His desire was to help people enter into a relationship with God before they had a moment like the young man who died. In 2002, as Charles started working on his M.Div. (which he has almost completed), he and Tiffany decided to plant a church, New Hope Community, in Loudonville, Ohio. It exploded in its growth over the next few years, and they began to feel that God was going to be leading them somewhere new. They continued to pray for God’s direction, and He answered

the most unreached people in the United States.

The Pankratz’s plan to move to Utah in December. They hope to plant “The Bridge” church, in Centerville, Utah just north of Salt Lake City. Their ultimate vision is to plant a “multiplying, missional church which, in response to the gospel, is passionate for the worship, the word, and the work of God.” They are excited about partnering with Converge Rocky Mountain because of a shared desire to be church-planting minded. Please pray for their fundraising efforts, and for the lives of people in Utah to be transformed by God’s love through “The Bridge”. ■

by leading them, unexpectedly, to plant a church in Utah.

Their desire for the new church is to reach people in Utah that are seeking God and to build believers. They want to accomplish this through loving God, loving others, and serving the world. They have already started making connections with other churches, as well as members of the community. In the next few months, the Hills hope to begin Alpha Bible studies in their area, which will be the foundation for their church plant. Please keep The Hill family in your prayers as they get settled in a new area, and that they will see lives changed for the glory of God. ■





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ROCKY MOUNTAIN

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## **Rocky Mountain Prayer Summits**

**Spend a day in worship and prayer with God's people. The "Utah Initiative" planters will share their vision and we will...pray.**

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**Cost: \$15**  
(Lunch and snacks provided)

**Registration: 9 a.m.**  
**Summit: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### **Two Sites — *Identical Format***

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**October 5th**  
Rock Creek Church  
225 Majestic View Drive,  
Boulder, CO  
303.494.2927

**October 6th**  
Cheyenne Hills Church  
7505 US Hwy 30,  
Cheyenne, WY  
307.778.6431