

Milo Nussbaum Honored for Lifetime of Service

Retired pastor of Grace Church has modeled servant leadership over the decades—and he gives God all the credit.

When Milo Nussbaum was named Servant Leader of the Year by the Christian Center of Peoria, Illinois, in March, he received a beautiful painting of Christ washing his disciples' feet. The next day he brought the artwork to Grace Evangelical Church of Morton, where he served as senior pastor for 33 years, and gave it to the church body.



Milo Nussbaum, right, with Les Sutter at the first groundbreaking for Grace Church in Morton, Illinois, in 1960.

That kind of selfless act, says Doug Habegger, Grace's current senior pastor, is typical of the kind of man Milo is. "The award says it all," Doug says. "He led the church by serving it."

From Farm to Pulpit, by Way of China

Milo was born near Berne, Indiana, in 1924. He accepted Christ at age 12, and in those early years was highly influenced by the ministry of his pastor and his wife, M.J. and

Bertha Smucker. Milo was planning to go into farming, but when he was drafted into the Army, his life began to head down a different path.

Milo was stationed in a U.S. Army hospital in Shanghai, where he worked as a clerk-typist for the mess officer. In addition to learning office skills he'd had no experience with on the farm, he also enjoyed the perks of association with the guys who controlled the kitchen. "We ate well," he says.

But Milo's life was being affected in more dramatic ways than getting to eat tenderloin when everyone else had fish sticks. The headquarters of the China Inland Mission were also in Shanghai, and Milo got to know the missionaries there. "Instead of going downtown and carousing, some of us would go down to the mission," he says. "It gave me a whole new worldview." Milo's call to the ministry became clear during his two years in China.

After his service in the military, instead of heading back to the family farm Milo attended Taylor University, followed by Asbury Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1954.

His first church was Groveland (Illinois) Evangelical Mennonite Church, then a small country church of about 200 people. There the Lord provided a wonderful mentor, Milo says, in the person of Groveland's retired pastor E.M. Rocke.

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Servant Leadership *(continued from page 1)*

At one point in those early years Milo attended a church-planting workshop in Chicago called “America, Our Judea,” put on by the National Association of Evangelicals. At about the same time EMC began to discuss forming a new congregation in Morton. Milo agreed to be the church’s pastor, and in 1958 Grace EMC was founded.

In his 33 years as Grace’s pastor, Milo saw many changes—growth in attendance, the addition of pastoral and administrative staff, and multiple building projects. But some things didn’t change. “We never lost the fellowship; we were just able to share it with more people,” he says.

A Legacy of Servant Leadership

When Doug Habegger took over as Grace’s senior pastor in 1992, Milo was there to cheer him on and encourage him. Since retiring Milo has stayed involved at Grace—something that’s rare among pastors but, Doug says, “it’s the way it should happen.”

Doug, who also grew up in Berne, has known Milo and his family for 40 years. “The theme of his life has been to love God and to love his neighbor,” he says. “If you asked anyone to give you four or five words to describe Pastor Nussbaum, they would be *humility, wisdom, gentleness, generosity, and consistency*. These are the elements of who he is—not just as a pastor, but as a person.”

“The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

*Psalm 118:23
Milo Nussbaum’s
favorite verse*

were in crisis,” Doug says. “He was there for people. He cared for them, and they knew it.”

Another of Milo’s legacies was the development of leadership within the congregation. “Pastor Nussbaum recruited and developed a strong group of lay leaders who helped him build the foundation of the church,” Doug says. “We’re still reaping the benefits of that model, even though it’s the not same group of people who are in leadership.”

Doug says Milo was always willing to change a lightbulb or fix something broken at the church, never assuming he was above the grunt work because of his position. He also cared for his congregation even when it meant personal sacrifice. “I know that many times he didn’t go on trips or came home early to be with people who

And finally, but not least significantly, Milo knew how to have a good time. “He always said it’s a lot easier to party together than to fight, and he led by example,” Doug says. Milo often gathered the staff and their spouses together and provided something tasty from the bakery where his daughter worked. In fact, he’s still known to drop by the church office with treats for the staff.



Doug Habegger, right, congratulates Milo Nussbaum at the Servant Leader Awards Banquet in Peoria, Illinois.

For Better or for Worse, in Sickness and in Health

Milo’s primary role now is to care for his wife of 60 years, Violet, who has Alzheimer’s disease. Because of his commitment, Violet is able to remain at home. It’s a full-time job with many challenges, but Milo says they’re managing reasonably well.

“This is what we promised each other as kids,” he says. “We didn’t know what we were promising, but I remember promising.”

“He’s committed to her needs,” Doug says. “It’s that consistency again. He is the same on the inside as he is on the outside.”

Because of this bedrock of integrity and servanthood, Milo’s life has affected thousands. But he is the first to deflect the credit away from himself and toward God, Doug says. “He always gives glory to the Lord, saying that he has had no authority that wasn’t given to him. One of his favorite verses is Psalm 118:23: ‘The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.’”

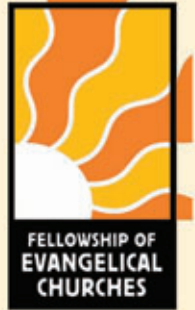
Milo’s words echo these as he looks back on his years of ministry. “I had no idea what would get started when I left the farm; it was an uncharted path,” he says. “But the Lord has been the only indispensable part. He says, ‘Without me you can do nothing’—not just half; *nothing*. Much of the time I’ve felt like an interested bystander watching what’s happened. But it’s been enjoyable all the way.” ■

full convention • quizzing • youth program
delegate session • prayer and worship

Celebrated

2005

They will celebrate your
abundant goodness and
joyfully sing of your
righteousness.
PSALM 145:7



FEATURING
Celebration Service
Friday, August 5

Celebrate the goodness of our God and praise the name of Jesus. We will bring together vocal and instrumental talent from many FEC churches to lead us in an amazing time of worship and praise. Start thinking now of people in your church who can lend their gifts to this service.

WWW.FECMINISTRIES.ORG

REGISTER NOW!

FEC Convention



Join us at Convention • August 4-7, 2005 • Northwoods Community Church • Peoria, Illinois

2005 Convention Offers Many Reasons to Celebrate

A new venue, a special praise service, and fantastic speakers are just a few highlights.

While successful denomination-wide conferences were held for years at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, this year the FEC Convention finds a new home at Northwoods Community Church in Peoria, Illinois. Browse through the highlights here, check out the detailed schedule at right, and then turn the page to register! Convention will take place August 4-7, 2005.

Friday Praise Service

Anyone who has attended the Convention in the past knows what a thrill the worship services are—heartfelt believers belting it to the rafters in goosebump-inducing four-part harmony. This year FEC has scheduled a special praise service for Friday night. The service will be held in Northwoods' 1,800-seat auditorium.

The service will be led by Steve Wilmert, worship director at Northwoods, and will consist of a praise choir, testimonies from FEC ministries, and corporate worship. FEC church members will sing in the choir and smaller ensembles, and member churches will also supply instrumentalists for the band. The service will close with communion. The event is open to all, even people not attending the full Convention.

Women's Luncheon

On Saturday, author and speaker Julie Barnhill will speak on "Scandalous Grace" for a women's ministry luncheon. Barnhill, who has written a book by that same name, will tackle this oft-examined subject with both humor and insight. To learn more about Barnhill, visit www.juliebarnhill.com.

The luncheon will be held in the Northwoods atrium at 12:30 p.m. Childcare will be available for infants through age 5 and day camp the entire day for kindergartners through grade five. The cost is \$10 per person for the luncheon. Ladies, you won't want to miss this!

Men's Events

Whether you are riding a four-wheeler or sitting down to breakfast, the men's activities at Convention will provide fellowship and pertinent teaching.

- **Wild at Heart:** Men are invited to participate in an exciting outdoor adventure either Friday morning or Saturday afternoon during Convention. This

activity will include four-wheeling, paintball, and a video devotional from John Eldredge, author of the bestselling *Wild at Heart*. Come have fun and spend some serious time discussing issues men deal with every day.

The Wild at Heart event is limited to 40 men per session, so register early. The cost is \$25 including the activities, lunch, and a T-shirt. Pete Hanssen of Northwoods Community Church will lead the devotional and the adventure will take place on his property. Check the schedule and sign up today!

- **Men's Breakfast:** Saturday morning the men of Northwoods are having their regularly scheduled 7:40 Men's Breakfast and have invited all men attending Convention to join them.

The breakfast will be held at Northwoods and begin promptly at 7:40 a.m. Cal Rychener, senior pastor at Northwoods, will be the speaker. The cost is \$6 for the breakfast and program.

Quizzing

Thursday evening through Saturday morning quiz teams from across FEC will be competing for the junior and senior high championships in a tense but sportsmanlike competition. The quizzing activity will take place at Northwoods and is open to all fans and spectators.

Saturday Evening Service

The final evening of Convention will be Northwoods Community Church's weekend service. Senior Pastor Cal Rychener will speak on "Secrets to Building an Emotionally Healthy Life." This service is an excellent opportunity to worship with another FEC church. The quiz champions and quizzers will be recognized and receive their awards at the opening of the service.

Sunday

If you are staying over Saturday night, consider attending a local FEC church. In your registration packet you will find a list of area FEC churches and their Sunday service times. This is another chance to get to know an FEC church other than the one you attend.

Mark your calendar now for this exciting time of fellowship, worship, and teaching. We can't wait to see you in August! ■

Celebrate 2005!

Fellowship of Evangelical Churches Convention Schedule

Thursday, August 4

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 3-8 p.m. | Registration |
| 5 p.m. | Quizmasters meeting |
| 5:45-8:30 p.m. | Childcare—infants through grade five |
| 6-8:30 p.m. | Ministers and wives dinner in the atrium |
| 6:30 p.m. | Quiz coaches and teams |
| 7 p.m. | Quizzing |
| 7-10 p.m. | Rehearsal for Friday evening worship |

Friday, August 5

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 7:30 a.m. | Prayer room |
| 8 a.m.-noon | FEC Board of Elders meeting |
| 8 a.m.-noon | “Wild at Heart” with Pete Hanssen |
| 8:30 a.m.-noon | Quizzing |
| Noon | Lunch in the atrium (included with registration) |
| Noon-1:15 p.m. | Retired credentials luncheon |
| 1-5 p.m. | Quizzing |
| 1:30-5 p.m. | Delegate session I |
| 1:30-5 p.m. | Childcare |
| 5 p.m. | Dinner buffet (included with registration) |
| 5-7 p.m. | Rehearsal for evening service |
| 7-8:30 p.m. | Worship and communion—concert of praise |
| 8:30 p.m. | Social (included with registration) |
| 8:30 p.m. | Short-term mission celebration |
| 9-11 p.m. | Youth activity—Clubs of River City |

Saturday, August 6

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 7:30 a.m. | Prayer room |
| 7:40-9 a.m. | Northwoods Community Church men’s breakfast |
| 8-10:30 a.m. | Quizzing |
| 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Day camp for children kindergarten through grade five |
| 9:15 a.m.-noon | Delegate session II |
| 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Rehearsal for Saturday evening service |
| 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Childcare for children—infants through age 5 |
| 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | “Wild at Heart” with Pete Hanssen |
| 12:30-2:30 p.m. | Ladies luncheon with Julie Barnhill |
| 4-5:30 p.m. | Quiz finals—auditorium |
| 5:45-6:05 p.m. | Quiz awards—auditorium |
| 6:05-7:10 p.m. | Northwoods Community Church worship service—auditorium |

Sunday, August 7

Please join one of our FEC churches of your choice.



Andy and Kathy Pflederer

Pflederer to Be Honored for Work in Albania

Andy and Kathy Pflederer will be recognized Friday evening at Convention for their service at the Albanian Bible Institute (ABI). The Pflederers and their four children have lived in Durrës, Albania, since 1994, and have seen evacuations, uprisings, and refugee influxes into the country during that time.

ABI is an evangelical Bible school that provides training for Albanian pastors, church leaders, and missionaries. Andy has served as a teacher and director at the school and has modeled Christ to many church leaders in this former Communist nation where there was no organized or underground church before 1991. Today there is a church in every town and many of the country’s young Christian leaders have been trained at ABI.

Greet the Pflederers at the ice cream social after the Friday praise service.

Short Term Mission Celebration

Have you been part of an FEC short-term mission team? Are you interested in joining one in the future? If you’re coming to Convention, make plans to attend the short-term mission celebration at 8:30 p.m. Friday. During this time we will take a look at lives that have been influenced for eternity as the result of participation on a team, and we will discuss upcoming opportunities to join a short-term mission project.

2005 FEC Convention Registration

Register by July 22, 2005

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Spouse name (if attending): _____

Name, age, and grade completed for child(ren) attending: _____

Address: _____

City, state, ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church or organization: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Do you have any disabilities that require special accommodation? Yes No

Please describe specific needs: _____

Register for Convention

Mail

1420 Kerrway Ct.,
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

E-mail

FECLindaj@aol.com

Fax

(260) 420-1905

Web

www.fecministries.org

*Feel free to make
copies of this form.*

Registration fees Registration fee includes Friday lunch and dinner and Friday ice cream social. All other meals are your responsibility.

Family: \$60

Individual: \$35

Registration fee: _____

Tickets for activities

Day Camp (K-Grade 5): \$5

7:40 Men's Breakfast: \$6

Wild at Heart: \$25

Women's Luncheon: \$10

Additional activities: _____

Total due to FEC: _____

Please make checks payable to FEC.

Cancellation policy:

Should you need to cancel, please contact us by telephone at (260) 423-3649 or fax at (260) 420-1905, visit our website at www.fecministries.com, or e-mail FECLindaj@aol.com no later than July 22, 2005. You will receive a refund, less \$25 per person.

Suggested hotels

The following hotels have a block of rooms reserved at a special rate, but you must register by July 1 to get this rate. Please contact your choice of hotel for reservations.

Americinn of Peoria

9106 N. Lindbergh Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615
(309) 692-9200

Raddison Hotel

117 N. Western Ave.
Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 673-8040

SpringHill Suites (Marriott)

2701 W. Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61515
(309) 681-2700

Name this newsletter and win!

FEC is tapping the creative minds throughout the conference in order to come up with the perfect name for the FEC Newsletter. Please send us your idea, along with your name and address. If your entry is selected, you will win a **free registration for a week of summer camp or a weekend retreat of your choice** at Miracle Camp.

E-mail your entry to FECCministries@aol.com, **mail** it to

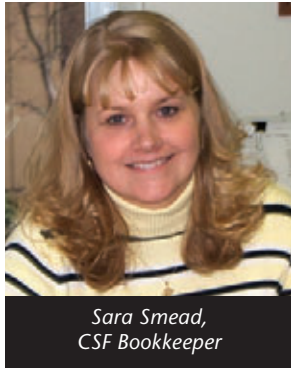
FEC Newsletter Contest
1420 Kerrway Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
or **fax** it to (260) 420-1905.

New Faces at the Resource Center

Sara Smead and Linda Johnston join FEC headquarters staff.

Recently the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches Resource Center has hired two new staff members. Sara Smead is now bookkeeper for the Christian Service Foundation, and Linda Johnston is the new administrative assistant for communications.

Sara and her husband, Jeffrey, have three children: Bryant, age 19; Nicholas, 10; and Madison, 7. The Smeads live in Grabill, Indiana, and are members of the Grabill Church. Having attended there for about



*Sara Smead,
CSF Bookkeeper*

11 years, Sara is thankful for their church family. Having a church where the truth is spoken and love is shown is a blessing from the Lord, she says.

Linda and her husband, George, have two daughters, Rachel and Katie, who are both in their mid-twenties. They live on the north side of Fort Wayne and

are members of Pine Hills Church, where Linda was the secretary for seven years before coming to the FEC Resource Center. "The Lord has been good and gracious to us," she says. "It's a joy to lovingly and obediently serve him in whichever setting he may place me."

Linda is taking the place of Kathy Eikenberry, who faithfully served FEC for 13 years in communications, international ministries, and finances, and Sara is replacing Anita Habegger, who commendably kept the records for CSF for the last 11 years.

Kathy and Anita say they are looking forward to spending more time with their grandchildren and seeing what God has in store for them in these next steps of life. ■



*Linda Johnston,
Administrative Assistant,
Communications*

Spring Quiz-Off Results

The Spring Quiz-Off took place March 5 at Upland Community Church in Upland, Indiana. Here are the results of the tournament.

Top Junior High Quizzer from Each Church

Chase Sauder, Archbold
Calvin Hirschy, Berne
Neil Klodzen, Brookside
Joshua Pinardi, Grabill
Hannah Roberts, Grace
Alexi Haas, Oak Bend
Tiffany Hughes, Pine Hills (tie)
Mary Moser, Pine Hills (tie)
Elisha Hildenbrand, Salem
Jessica Jacobs, Solid Rock
Edward Meadors, Upland

Top Ten Junior High Quizzers

1. Hannah Roberts, Grace
2. Calvin Hirschy, Berne
3. Chase Sauder, Archbold
4. Edward Meadors, Upland
4. Eric Rupp, Archbold
6. Alexi Haas, Oak Bend
7. Dan Getz, Grace
7. Ben Lee, Upland
9. Neil Klodzen, Brookside
10. Elisha Hildenbrand, Salem
10. David Rupp, Archbold

Top Three Junior High Teams

1. Archbold 3: David Rupp, Chase Sauder, Jordan Fruchey, Sarah Stuckey
2. Upland 2: Amanda Hatland, Josh Craton, Ben Lee, Stephen Mortland, Sarah Nace
3. Archbold 2: Eric Rupp, Taylor Rupp, Anna Ridley, Autumn Lantz

Top Senior High Quizzer from Each Church

Andy Wilhelm, Archbold
Clark Moser, Berne
Jana Vastbinder, Brookside
Tricia Leman, Eureka
Jessica Pinardi, Grabill
Jonathan Knowles, Grace
Mary Rocke, Groveland
Graham Haas, Oak Bend
Brandon Ricca, Oak Grove
Tara Jackson, Our Redeemer
Megan Powers, Pine Hills
Courtney Schwerin, Salem
Courtney Beasley, Solid Rock
Seth Bird, Upland

Top Ten Senior High Quizzers

1. Jonathan Knowles, Grace
2. Theresa Lindell, Grace
3. Nathaniel Petersen, Grace
4. Seth Bird, Upland
4. Courtney Schwerin, Salem
6. Joe Ackerman, Grace
6. Jonathan Goodyear, Grace
8. Jana Vastbinder, Brookside
9. Cori Stemen, Brookside
10. Tricia Leman, Eureka
10. Susan Pearsall, Brookside
10. Mary Rocke, Groveland

Top Three Senior High Teams

1. Brookside 3: Cori Stemen, Micah Shadowen, Gramm Wilson, Susan Pearsall
2. Grace 7: Jon Knowles, John Maeser, Dawn Schurter, Ken Sinn, Leigha Relf, Kristi Menold
3. Upland 1: Seth Bird, Luke Collins, Daniel Moore, Ellie Lee, Colleen Linehan



1420 Kerrway Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

President's Corner

Scarcity in the Land of Plenty



The prophet Haggai warned, “Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it” (Haggai 1:5-6). To this list we might add, “You buy a bed, but cannot buy rest.”

We live in a land of plenty with access to almost anything we want. We work more hours, acquire more things, and increase our debts. However, the land of plenty has produced a scarcity of trust in God, of faith that he alone will supply our needs. The result is the management of our personal finances (and our church budgets) using the principle of supply, demand, and available credit.

I would like to share a story of how one mother taught her son a different principle. The young boy delivered newspapers in a small town. Each Saturday he went from house to house and collected the 35-cent weekly fee for the paper. After he had paid the cost of the newspapers, he could keep 50 cents to spend any way he wanted.

Well, almost any way—my mother made it clear that 5 cents was to be placed in the offering plate on Sunday as a tithe to the Lord. Then I could spend the rest. The principle she taught was firstfruits giving: the nickel came out first. I am certain the church did not increase the

budget because of my tithe, and if I had skipped a week they would never have missed it. But that nickel, small as it was, taught me much about managing money.

Today, statistics say that evangelicals give about 3 percent of their income to the church, and that percentage is growing smaller. Me-first spending did not work in the days of Haggai, and it does not work today. We see its results in tension-filled homes where husband and wife work long hours to fund their desires to buy more. Local church budget meetings become struggles over which ministries to cut, and denominational giving also dwindles.

There is a better way. In Luke 6:38 Jesus teaches that the measure by which we give becomes the measure by which we receive. When we become serious about giving to God, he shows us that it's not about how much we give, but what we do with what we have.

I encourage you to put your trust in him and believe that all you have has been entrusted to you not as owner but as steward. If you have not learned to tithe, practice the principle of firstfruits giving by writing a check first to your local church and paying bills from the balance. This may require some spending adjustments—but remember: you can buy a bed, but you cannot buy rest.

*Ron Habegger, President
Fellowship of Evangelical Churches*