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**Iowa/ Minnesota District May Dynamics 2018**

1 message

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Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 10:48 AM



**Iowa-Minnesota  
District Dynamics**  
[www.iamndistrict.org](http://www.iamndistrict.org)

**May 2018****CRUISE LINERS, BATTLESHIPS AND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS**

The words, sent, send and sending, are used 283 times in the New Testament. Here are just a few of those instances:

**Luke 10:3 (NIV)**

*Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.*

**John 20:21 (NIV)**

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

**John 17:18 (NIV)**

*As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

**Luke 9:2 (NIV)**

*...and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

**Matthew 9:38 (NIV)**

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

Seems like, sooner or later, we would catch on to the fact that we Christians are people on a mission and that the church is to be more about sending than gathering. In JD Greear's book, *GAINING BY LOSING*, he compares the church to three different types of ships.

First, there is the **CRUISE LINER**, offering great programs and services for the whole family. People show up at church asking, "Can this church improve my religious quality of life? Will I like the music and does the pastor preach entertaining messages that meet my needs?" And if the church ever ceases to cater to their preferences... well, there are plenty of other cruise liners in the harbor.

Then, there is the **BATTLESHIP**. The church is made for mission, and its success is measured in how loudly and dramatically it fights the fight. The role of church members is to pay the pastor and staff to find the targets and fire the guns each week as they gather to watch. They see the church's programs, services and ministries as the primary instruments for achieving the mission. A little better than the cruise liner, but not much.

The third metaphor is by far the best, the **AIRCRAFT CARRIER**. Like battleships, aircraft carriers engage in battle, but not in the same way. Aircraft carriers equip planes and prepare pilots to carry the battle elsewhere. Aircraft carrier churches equip and send their members to where needy people are. Their members learn to share the gospel in the communities where they live *without the help of the pastor*.

If we are really going to assault the gates of Hell, we're going to have to become aircraft carrier churches. It's not about gathering and counting; it's about raising up and sending.



**Submitted by Rev. Jeremy Geerdes**

**Debra Heights Wesleyan Church, Des Moines, IA**

I grew up in the Wesleyan Church in West Union. Next door to the church there lived a man we always called Rev. Rumppe. Rev. Rumppe was a former pastor of the church, and though he and his wife were generally homebound, he remained the elder churchman of the congregation. Much of the time I was

growing up, his son was also a part of the congregation. After Rev. and Mrs. Rumppe passed away, I don't remember seeing their son anymore. [Read more.](#)

### **Submitted by Rev. Rob Williams III** **The Bridge Church, Charles City, IA**

The first time I met Lezlie was on a Sunday morning last summer. Her friend and neighbor, Kaytlynn, who has since moved back to Indiana, invited her to church that weekend. She had tried to counsel Lezlie through some pretty serious marital struggles, Kaytlynn didn't feel like she had the answers. She did the best she could to encourage Lezlie and be there for her, but the best solution she could come up with was to invite her to church... to connect her with some people that she knew had helped her learn and grow in her own life and marriage. Lezlie had no church background... but she came.

That Sunday Lezlie came to know Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. In her baptism testimony she described her first morning at The Bridge.

*"While sitting there listening to [a message on] submission to higher authorities, I felt as though the whole service was directed right at me. It was the first church I had ever attended where everything was making sense, speaking to every part of my being. This was my first communion; completely giving and devoting my life to God. I felt whole and found and surrounded by love. As the aisles emptied I sat there, my eyes filling with tears... tears for the void that was finally filled... tears for the uncertainty on how God worked this all out... and tears for the pure satisfaction that I knew I had made the right choice."*



Since that morning, Lezlie's husband Chad recommitted his life to Christ. They were both baptized a few months later, and soon after I had the privilege of facilitating the renewal of their wedding vows before God.



**Living Hope, Cedar Rapids, IA, Pastor Chopper Brown**---Living Hope had a wonderful Easter Worship we had 156 in attendance on Sunday across 2 service without counting people twice. We celebrated the Resurrection with wonderful singing, communion and 3 baptisms, we had a number of re-commitments approx. 12 although we did not have any conversions. We had folks at our service that we have had contact with through our Christmas Outreach, Our Trunk or Treat and thought the invitation of others that are experiencing renewal in their spiritual lives. God is at work at Living Hope!

**Greater Praise Church, Brooklyn Park, MN, Pastor David Browne**---On April 1, 2018, it was a great

time of worship celebrating the resurrection service, with the total of 119 people in attendance. We had nine receiving salvation.

We want to bless God for what he is doing in the Greater Praise Ministries, our prayer for you all to please join us as we continue to search for a new worship center.

**Hope Church, Blaine, MN, Dr. Alan Goracke**---We had a fantastic Easter! On Palm weekend, 26 people stepped forward in their faith and were baptized! Praise God! On Easter Week we had 538 people in attendance with 23 first time commitments for Christ! It was EPIC! We also offered a free hot turkey dinner and about 270 people were fed. We offered two free egg hunts on Saturday and Sunday. Both were dampened a bit by the weather with snow and heavy winds. Our Youth group assisted the Easter Bunny in hiding the eggs and registering the kids. Even with the inclement weather 50 kids still participated! We give God the praise and Glory for the way He moved and continues to move in our community!



**Junior High Camp- June 10-15** (Early registration is May 1)

**Senior High Camp- June 17-22**

**Kidz Camp July 9-12**

**Tadpole Camp July 5-7**

**Family Retreat- July 18-22**

[Click here for more details](#)

**Upcoming Events:**

May 1-14 Rev. Purcell out of office

May 19 Nominating Committee Mtg./Phone Conference 10:00 a.m.

June 6 Investment Committee Mtg./Phone Conference 8:30 a.m.

June 9 DBA Charles City 9:00 a.m.

**May Birthdays**

- Jeremy Geerdes.....5
- Karolyn Zbornik.....5
- Darren Waite.....13

Alvin Freeman.....20  
 John Cupryna.....24  
 Jessica Moore-English.....25



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**\*Pray for the families of Sara Ernst, wife of former District Superintendent Richard Ernst, and Nancy Hubbard, missionary to Central America, and wife of Perry Hubbard, as they both went home to be with the Lord in April. A memorial service for Nancy Hubbard will be held June 23rd at Waite Park Wesleyan in Minneapolis, Minnesota.**



**\*Continued prayers for John Cupryna. He will be turning 65 in May. Cards and special messages would be appreciated.**

[Global Partners Prayer Calendar](#)



## Vital Signs for [March](#) and [Easter Sunday](#)

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IA-MN DISTRICT OFFICE

PO Box 485

Charles City, IA 50616

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